Rossendale Rambles

Including the Rossendale Way and selected town and village trails

Ian Goldthorpe

About the Author

IAN GOLDTHORPE was born in Hull, and after being educated at Hymers College and qualifying as an architect at the Hull School of Architecture he later, in 1960, went to Manchester. There he studied Town and Country Planning at the University before working for the Cities of Salford and Manchester, and later Lancashire County Council. In 1973 he was appointed the Chief Planning Officer of the Borough of Rossendale, a post which he held until he took early retirement at the end of 1982.

Mr Goldthorpe is a member of the Victorian Society, having served for a number of years on the Committee of the Manchester Group soon after its formation. He is also a member of two Civic Societies and has lectured extensively to amenity groups throughout the North West of England. He is a keen fell walker and drawing and photography are two of his many other interests.

To the Reader

To the people of Rossendale that they may come to understand, and more fully appreciate, their fine countryside, thus cherishing their rich heritage from the past.

The author has requested that any proceeds from the sale of this book should be used for the improvement of the paths described or, alternatively, to carry out interpretive projects on sites of historic importance on, or near, the routes described.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of features shown, within the limits of scale, the author cannot accept responsibility for any discrepancy. Changes are continually being made in relation to the paths, and other features, and walkers should observe and obey any legitimate signs and waymarks encountered. It would be appreciated if any problems or obstructions, together with important changes to features described on the maps, could be reported, preferably in writing, giving grid references, to either Rossendale Borough Council or Rossendale Groundwork Trust, in order that any necessary action may be taken and where necessary modifications made to the maps for future editions.

The author also wishes to express his indebtness to the Countryside Commission, Rossendale Borough Council and the Rossendale Groundwork Trust Ltd without whose generous support this publication may never have been possible.

Stile above Clough Bottom

All the colour photographs have been taken by the Author
Cover photo, Lower Rossendale Valley from Sand Beds Lane-Ramble No 9

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Foreword

by Eric Halsall

A light paw-push rouses me from my reverie. Gael, my little Collie, thinks it is time to move on. I reach out and give her ear an affectionate tug. She stares up at me from soft, soulful eyes. She is the truest of friends, the glad companion on this Rossendale hill.

She is right. We cannot dawdle forever. It is time to cease this day-dreaming and walk over to the sheep.

I shiver, and pull my jacket close around my throat. It is not easy to leave the shelter of this grey stone wall. The wind has an icy touch. It screams over the top of the wall, and across the heights, carrying snowflakes in a wild careless dance.

It buffets me and tugs at my coat, at Gael's fur, and it shrieks its mastery over the hill.

Boisterous and austere, never vexing, this for me is the charm of Rossendale - the 'tops' in their ever-changing moods. As I write now, in winter, when the weather is paramount, when rainstorm soaks the land, and snow lies deep in the cloughs, it is a rugged romance.

Always the wind's voice is on the verge of a scream, even when the lambs are born and the curlews return to the hills. Even when Gael and I can snatch a minute and lounge in the sunshine of summer there is the murmur of wind movement.

The Rossendale heights are durable, and they reflect their character on the whole area, adding the quixotic type of mystery to a region that in many ways has yet to be discovered.

'Rossendale Rambles' will dispel that mystery without banishing the romance, indeed the book will add to the thrills of discovery and speed the reader to the pleasures of paths to ever-varying scenes.

Across the treeless heights which, though so termed, are never bleak these paths will lead you to places where past and present mingle, where romance is interwoven with fact.

'Rossendale Rambles' will take you from highways which are busy and vital to an industrious community to glimpses of cold enchanted waters, green cloughs where squirrels play, grey squat buildings where history has been made, and to the realisation that the Forest of Rossendale has its share of the choicest of rural gems.

It is an area where Lancashire sentiment thrives, an area steeped in industrial and agricultural history, indeed an area which has produced its own breed of sheep.

The Lonk, the biggest and most handsome of the horned mountain breeds, was originally known as the Improved Haslingden. Farming folk whose land you will wander, will greet you if you behave yourself and keep to Ian Goldthorpe's prescribed routes; the Valley folk will bid you welcome when you descend from the 'tops', for Rossendale folk are homely and hospitable.

'Rossendale Rambles' takes a major step in bringing detailed guidance and information of Rossendale's beauties and appeal to residents and visitors without upsetting the rural folk who have a living to make in the Forest. This book opens the 'Rossendale Way', introduces seventeen satisfying walks with concise directions and maps, and clinches its value with illustrations and historical notes which no wanderer can deny.

Travel and enjoy all that 'Rossendale Rambles' describes in such detail and you will find that Rossendale has a charm which binds those who come to know it.

Eric Halsall
Cliviger 1985

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Whilst carrying out the research and actually writing this book I have been most impressed, and greatly encouraged, by the tremendous enthusiasm for the project of many local people, together with the information, advice and help which they have so freely given.

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Preface

It was in 1960 that I first came to know Rossendale when I passed through Haslingden on my way to visit friends in Accrington. I well remember on that occasion being impressed by the prominent and majestic Musbury Tor, which a colleague of mine later quite aptly described as "Rossendale's Table Mountain."

Shortly afterwards I passed through Rawtenstall on a number of occasions en route to the Yorkshire Dales, my most vivid recollections being of the sharp bend in Bury Road — near what is now Asda's service entrance — followed by the level crossing adjacent to Rawtenstall Railway Station and immediately beyond the superb view of the ruinous, though beautiful and extensive, New Hall Hey House.

I remember little of the rest of Rawtenstall apart from the very black buildings and the fine Victorian Clock cantilevered out into Bank Street, which happily can still be seen on the outside of the Rossendale Museum in Whitaker Park.

Two years later I was to pay a brief visit to Bacup, having made the journey from Manchester up through Shawforth and Britannia; grim, black and forbidding places at that time. What impressed me most about Bacup were the black, almost tenement like, four-storey blocks of back-to-back houses which lined the west side of Market Street and the narrow uphill road behind where more black little houses looked at each other across a narrow dingy, cobbled area. Today, with the attractive landscaping on the site, it is difficult

to recall the very large number of houses that, not so long ago, stood there.

After I went to work in Preston in 1969, I became increasingly involved in the Rossendale area. At the time of local government re-organisation and the establishment of the fourteen new Lancashire districts, I felt that to work in Rossendale would offer the greatest scope and challenge of any district. In April 1974 my ambition was fulfilled and it was an exciting time setting up a new planning department to tackle the many problems of the area, especially the vast amount of dereliction resulting from the Industrial Revolution.

Due to the advent of clean air, especially in Greater Manchester, and the rapid felling of the great forest of mill chimneys which had filled valleys with smoke and grime for as long as most people could remember, the magnificent moorland scenery again became a part of the environment.

With the proximity of the Pennine Way and my keen interest in walking, especially on the moors, it quickly occurred to me that there was a need for a long distance Trans-Pennine footpath which perhaps could be called the "Rossendale Way". Whilst I mentioned my ideas to a number of members of the Council, at that time such a scheme was impracticable with the limited staff resources at our disposal and the great urgency to prepare a plan for the borough, together with the need to remove the large amount of derelict land and generally enhance the area to attract both new industrial and housing investment.

In 1978 the Calderdale Way Association, together with the Countryside Commission and the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, successfully launched the Calderdale Way, a circular route of some fifty or so miles. By this time, of course, with increasing attention being paid to recreational needs, a number of long distance footpaths throughout the country had already been established.

By 1981, due to the acute unemployment problem, the Government were anxious for local authorities to put forward suitable schemes to provide temporary employment and a number of councillors suggested the possibility of a "Rossendale Way" project. Due to the initiative which I had quickly taken in working out a tentative circular route some forty-five miles in length using definitive rights of way, it was agreed that this project should be the responsibility of the Planning Department. In a period of twelve months, including the very bad winter of 1981/2 the small team which we recruited succeeded in carrying out the necessary negotiations prior to waymarking the route with a symbol which they designed. This work, which also included a certain amount of repair to fences, gates, stiles and walls, was done under the supervision of a dedicated colleague in the Planning Department, Mick Onley.

As a result of taking early retirement at the end of 1982, I was afforded an opportunity to carry out the necessary research to produce this book on "Rossendale Rambles", describing in total seventeen circular routes, sixteen of which include a consecutive section of the Rossendale Way and Ramble No. 17 comprises a link walk with the Calderdale Way. The fact that this book describes in sections a walk round the Rossendale Way in an anti-clockwise direction is for no other reason than that the initial waymarking was done in that direction only. The rambles follow definitive footpaths and minor roads used as public paths.

Special maps, based on the 1968 edition of the Ordnance Survey six inches to one mile map updated, where necessary, to take account of changes observed on the ground, together with larger scale inserts of the more historic town and village centres, have been drawn to clearly indicate the routes. In addition sites of local historical and archaeological interest are shown since Rossendale was at the heart of the Industrial Revolution in Lancashire, which 150 years ago started to change the pattern of life throughout the whole world.

It has been said that the River Irwell was the most worked river in the world and the same can also be said of the Rossendale hills since scarcely any of the moorland has escaped exploitation at some time or another. Initially, the small cloughs with their fast flowing streams were filled with water mills and later coal mining and quarrying developed over wide areas, which necessitated the construction of extensive tramway systems across the open moorland. Lead and iron ore were also

found in these hills on a limited scale, and with the rapid growth in the population, within Rossendale and the surrounding towns, there was a need for the construction of reservoirs of which Rossendale has a great number.

In describing the rambles I have briefly tried to touch upon some of the characters, legends and achievements of the area, together with its buildings, in an attempt to bring alive the rich and colourful history of Rossendale in the hope that those of you who follow the various trails will be tempted to delve further into the aspects of Rossendale's heritage which most appeals to you.

Finally, I can only hope that you will get as much enjoyment out of exploring this fascinating area as I have done carrying out the research to enable me to write this book. Incidentally, for those interested, the libraries at Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Bacup and Whitworth all have excellent local history sections.

Ian Goldthorpe, Rawtenstall, January, 1985.

The Rossendale Story

INTRODUCTION

Rossendale has long been known by the locals as the "Valley". The area described in this book covers roughly the area within the Borough of Rossendale, which comprises in the main the upper part of the Irwell Valley and its tributaries, together with the upper part of the Spodden Valley in which Whitworth is situated.

The Valley has a damp climate and together with the rain,a grim environment it must have been with the filth, poverty and unsanitary conditions, coupled with the overall pollution from the forest of factory chimneys in the valley bottoms pouring out their smoke almost continuously.

However, such was the prosperity of the mill and factory owners in the second half of the 19th century that Rossendale became known as the "Golden Valley". During the same period excursions were run from Blackpool with this exotic title to lure the holiday makers to come and see the area.

With the highest point on the moors being Top of Leach at only 1,555 ft. above sea level, Rossendale has a higher rainfall than either the Peak District to the south or the Ribble Valley and Yorkshire Dales to the north. This is due to the sudden steepness of the escarpment of the Pennines at the edge of the Manchester Plain and the fact that the Valley acts like a funnel for the rain carrying south westerly winds.

Although at the heart of Industrial Lancashire, the grime and dirt has long since disappeared and Rossendale now successfully competes with Cheshire as an attractive residential area for Greater Manchester's commuters.

GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

We have to go back millions of years to see how Rossendale was formed, it being located in a western extension of the Pennine Chain and part of the region now known as the "South Pennines". The rocks of Rossendale are sedimentary, which means that they were formed under water when parts of Britain lay beneath an ancient sea.

As a result of the remains of small shell fish falling on to the sea bed and being pressed together the rock known as limestone was formed, but this is not visible in the area today, since it is covered by later rocks formed by rivers from the north depositing sand and mud on top of the limestone. These deposits were then compressed to form sandstone and shale.

Later, earth movements caused these layers of rock to be pushed up to form the beginnings of the range of hills we know today as the "Pennines", although at that time they would not have any steep contours.

The next stage in their development was the growth of vast forests, which over a long

period of time as a result of the growth and death of successive generations of trees produced the coal measures. The Pennines at this time were not high enough to avoid further great floods which, at a much later date, once again covered the area in sand and mud which formed further layers of sandstone and shale. The area was then exposed to the effects of wind, water and finally glaciers which produced the form of the landscape we know today. Once the glaciers melted the resulting force of the water produced a number of gorges in the South Pennines of which the Thrutch Gorge between Stacksteads and Waterfoot, and the Healey Dell Gorge in Whitworth are the best examples in Rossendale.

The river valleys of Rossendale have today for the most part the characteristic form of many of the Pennine valleys, due to the successive layers of sandstone and shale. Generally, the valley sides rise steeply from the bottom to a more gently sloping green terrace, followed by a much steeper and wilder area extending to the summit of the moors.

Following the effects of the glaciers the whole of Rossendale once more was covered with forest. It was dense in the valleys, which for the most part would be very wet, and less dense on the tops of the hills, where the trees would tend to be more stunted due to the effect of the climatic conditions.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Rossendale can present a bleak prospect; yet, to the keen eye, the district has a wealth of natural historic interest. The varied topography provides a range of different habitats for plants and animals; from the cotton grass blanket bog of the flat moorland, through the steeper slopes of acid grassland with heather and bilberry (locally called "whinberry") and the green pastures and hayfields of the terraces, to the cloughs and river valleys with scrub, trees, interesting wet areas and the streams themselves. The area's reservoirs and lodges have in more recent times become an important, though artificial, extra habitat, particularly for wildfowl and wading birds.

There have been many changes over historical time in the area's flora and fauna. Thus, it is no longer possible to hunt wild boar from Swinshaw Hall; the hazel that gave its name to Haslingdon is now as rare there as is the ramsons, or wild garlic, in Ramsbottom, to which town this attractive plant is said to have given its name. Industrial pollution and the use of the hills for quarrying and sheep grazing have been important causes of the disappearance of many plants from Rossendale during recent centuries. Other factors were also involved, notably perhaps, the Victorian fern collectors, for many of whom parts of Rossendale were favoured collecting sites.

Other species have exended into Rossendale in recent times, sometimes introduced by man — as in the case of the delightful little Pink Purslane that carpets many of the damper woods in early summer — in other cases, as an indirect consequence of man's manipulation of the landscape — the curlew, carrion crow and fox, for example, are much commoner now than earlier this century.

In recent times, the reduction of pollution, planting of native tree species and other enlightened environmental improvements have all helped to stimulate an increase in the range of plants and animals living in Rossendale. Thus, kingfishers, dippers and grey wagtails now frequent the River Irwell as far downstream as Rawtenstall; different species of woodland birds, rare in the area only ten years ago, increasingly use the developing plantations of birch, alder, rowan and oak. The fact that Rossendale Ornithologists Club has recorded 166 different bird species in the area since 1976, is testimony to both the area's current interest and its future potential.

PRE-HISTORIC MAN

There is evidence of the existence of pre-historic man in, and around, Rossendale. Mesolithic Man, about 10,000 years ago, produced scatterings of small geometrical flints at Trough Edge, Bull, Knowl and Tooter Hills. Neolithic Man, about 6,000 years ago, produced a flint adze found on Tooter Hill and some flint arrowheads to be seen in the Bacup Natural History Museum. Cairns, dating from 3-4,000 years ago, and belonging to Bronze Age Man, at Whitelow Hillock and Hades Hill, have been excavated. Items made by Bronze Age Man

have been found at other cairn burials and there is evidence that there may have once been a Bronze Age stone circle at Thirteen Stone Hill, high upon Haslingden Moor to the north of the Grane Valley.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

The earliest settlements were located in clearings in the forest situated on the more gently sloping terraces. Haslingden and Newchurch are thought to be among the oldest settlements in Rossendale.

EARLY COMMUNICATIONS

It was in the "Middle Ages", with the growth of the woollen industry, that trade and routeways really began to develop. Pack horses using pack horse tracks were the main means of transport at that time.

By 1500 some of the more important early lines of communication were beginning to be established in Rossendale. These early routes would for the most part follow the higher ground, either across the moors or along the valley sides, to avoid the swampy valley floors and moorland bogs only descending into the valley when a stream of river had to be crossed.

Rooley Moor Road, the Limersgate, the old road from Rawtenstall to Bury and the moor road from Helmshore via Robin Hood's well and the Pilgrim's Cross are doubtless some of the most ancient routes in Rossendale.

THE CLEARANCE OF THE FOREST

The final clearance of the Forest of Rossendale began in 1504, when the inhabitants were leased land which they could clear at 4d an acre. Their surviving children would be assigned land and could then extend it until all suitable land had been taken up. Then, instead of bequeathing the original estate to an heir, it became the custom for the local inhabitants to split it up among their sons. Thus, the holdings got smaller and smaller and less capable of supporting a family. This led to families suffering epidemics and semi-starvation om a bad year. These people were soon driven to augment their income by converting the wool of their sheep into cloth as a cottage industry.

START OF THE WOOLLEN INDUSTRY

At first, the spinning of wool was usually carried out by the unmarried daughters of the household from which we get the word "spinster", which is a term still used today to refer to an unmarried woman.

The yarn was woven into cloth on handlooms, which were often housed in the upstairs rooms of cottages. As this home-based industry developed, extra floors had to be built on to cottages and these can usually be picked out by the more or less continuous range of windows, often on the south side, to give sufficient light for the people operating the looms. The Weavers' Cottage, at Fallbarn Fold in Rawtenstall, is possibly the best remaining example in Rossendale of such a building, which may even have been used by families grouping themselves together as a small weaving community sharing the one large building. Such buildings usually had takin' in steps and doors to enable the raw materials and the finished goods to be taken in and out from the upper workrooms by-passing the living quarters below. There is a good example of takin' in steps and doors at the Weavers' Cottage at Fallbarn Fold, although these steps are not the original ones but have recently been constructed by the Rawtenstall Civic Society who now own the building.

YEOMEN CLOTHIERS

Later a wealthier class of weaver emerged, known as "Yeomen Clothiers". These were in effect the Middle Men of the industry, who supplied the wool to the weavers and then took the cloth for resale at the market, at either Rochdale or Manchester. They soon became very wealthy, which was reflected in the size and style of the mansion houses which they built. Few remain in Rossendale today, although Ewood Hall, Fearns Hall, Balladen Old Hall, and Waggoner Tunstead in Stacksteads are possibly the best examples. The mansion houses at Gambleside, Goodshaw Fold, Crawshawbooth and New Hall Hey are other examples which unfortunately have now been demolished.

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The development of the woollen industry led to the expansion of the population from about 1720. As a result of this population growth many new cottages and farm houses were built, some on the hillsides up to a height of about 1300 feet above sea level.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

In 1733 John Kay was born near Edenfield, and he later developed the fly shuttle and began a series of developments in the process of textile manufacture, which were to alter the course of our social history. The fly-shuttle was a device which enabled cloth to be woven in widths broader than the span of a weaver's arm.

By 1750 there was reference to several mills which denoted the extent of the cloth trade. These mills were certainly not the mills of the Industrial Revolution, although the latter probably replaced them. They would be "walk", or fulling mills for the last process of thickening and preparing the cloth for the market. Initially, the process of thickening the cloth to make it warmer and longer lasting was done by people called "walkers". Where people have the surname "Walker" today it usually indicates that one of their ancestors trampled cloth. In 1767 James Hargreaves of Oswaldtwistle invented his jenny allowing up to eight threads to be spun at once, thus helping to meet the increased demand for yarn created earlier by Kay's fly-shuttle. Shortly afterwards in 1769 Richard Arkwright, once a barber in Preston, patented his water frame. The water frame was so called since it could be harnessed to the power of a water wheel and in 1779 Arkwright built his well-known factory on the banks of the Derwent at Cromford in Derbyshire, housing several thousand spindles and employing over 300 workers. However, it was also in 1779 that Samuel Crompton, a handloom weaver living at Hall i' th' Wood, Bolton, devloped the mule system of spinning, which together with the inventions of Hargreaves and Arkwright, produced a system capable of spinning yarn of a very even quality and of extremely fine count.

In the latter part of the 18th century fulling started to be done by machines in mills, and a little later spinning and woolcombing were also mechanised, the power being supplied by water-wheels. Higher Mill at Helmshore was started in 1789 as a fulling mill and is the only surviving mill in Rossendale with a working water-wheel.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TEXTILE MILLS

Great Lodge, which has recently been demolished provided the main source of water to power a series of mills in the Cheesden Valley including Cheesden Lumb Mill built in 1786. Initially, this, and other mills built about the same time, came not to challenge the cottage weaver, but to provide a full range of ancillary services such as carding engines, to prepare the fleece for the spinning process, a teaser over which the cloth would pass to raise the nap and provide a texture suitable for blankets and warm clothing, a brimstone stove for the bleaching of cloth, and the tenters, or hooks, on which the bleached and washed fabrics would be stretched to dry.

However, with the developments in new technology mentioned above and especially the development of water power, new mills quickly sprang up, particularly in the narrow tributary valleys where the streams were fast flowing over steep contours and through rocky clefts. The same water could be impounded over and over again to power several mills in one valley. Whilst little remains of many of these water mills today, in many cases the lodges which supplied them, often complete with water, still survive.

COAL, IRON AND LEAD MINING

In 1612 the first reference to coal mining in Rossendale is made, and by 1820 there were 7 coal mines operating in the area which led to the gradual change over from water to steam power for industry, and the location of new and larger mills in the main valleys with better communications.

Iron was mined on a small scale in South Lancashire in the 13th century. In the 1870's

the remains of four "bloomeries" were discovered in Rossendale. A bloomery is a primitive furnace in which the iron ore was covered with stones and clay beneath which it was heated, the necessary draught being provided by the ingenious method of establishing the bloomery on a hill facing the prevailing wind, not difficult in Rossendale!

Lead was also mined in Rossendale in the Middle Ages and some mines have been found at Thieveley Pike north of Bacup, dating even from as recently as the 17th century.

THE START OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY

An American invention, Eli Whitney's cotton-gin of 1793 enabling easy separation of cotton from the seed, resulted in a considerable rise in imports from the New World towards the end of the century. Soon cotton began to challenge the traditional wool markets and it was to the south-east corner of Lancashire with its damp atmosphere and mild climate, so advantageous to the new fibre, that the new industry came.

The handloom weavers of Rossendale could not compete with the new power looms and the majority of them sought work in the new mills, although initially work was not easy to find. It is recorded that a few lingered on until as late as the 1880's. Many of the new mills were started by former weavers, such as the Whitehead brothers in Rawtenstall.

POWER ROOM RIOTS

In 1826, due to the appalling state into which the weavers were thrown by the severe trade depression of that year, they began to look back and compare current wages and prices with those of 35 years earlier. Hunger and despair drove these men and women to desperate acts, often accomplished with a fearlessness that astonished all who witnessed them. A group of almost 3,000 weavers successfully destroyed the power looms of three mills before they moved on to the most notorious incident, the Chatterton riot, when the mob attacked the factory, which was being defended by the army. Ten of the mob were killed and the riot was finally stopped by the 20 or so ring leaders being arrested; some of whom were sent to Lancaster Castle and others deported to Australia.

However, following the riot, a number of manufacturers agreed to pay standard prices for weaving.

GROWTH OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

By 1830 there were 50 spinning mills in Rossendale, wholly or partially water driven, and in 1844 there were 80 cotton spinning and weaving mills, and 10 calico printing and bleaching mills.

The new mills which occupied the main valleys were generally accompanied by houses for the workers which in the end resulted in continuous development along most of the valleys.

NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION

As a result of the industrial development, the growth of the population, and the passing of the Turnpike Acts, a number of roads were constructed in the latter part of the 18th century. To pay for these improvements and maintain the roads users had to pay a fee known as a "toll", which was collected at toll houses along the route. Although the tolls on turnpike roads were abolished in 1875, a number of the toll houses still remain throughout the South Pennines, the best examples remaining in Rossendale being at Sharneyford, Kirk Hill near Haslingden and opposite the former Quarryman's Inn in Edenfield.

THE RAILWAYS

The railway from Bury to Rawtenstall was opened in 1846 and by 1881 the network in Rossendale was completed.

THE WATER INDUSTRY

Due to the very high rainfall in the area, from 1846 onwards until the 1930's a series of

reservoirs were constructed to serve Rossendale and the surrounding Lancashire towns. Many of these reservoirs, which in most cases add to the attraction of the environment, will be seen on the rambles.

THE FELT AND SLIPPER TRADE

By 1854 Edward Rostron came over the Pennines from Yorkshire to establish the first felt works in Rossendale which became one of the leading felt manufacturing areas in the country by the end of the century.

The slipper trade is said to have been started by Mr J W Rothwell of Miller Barn Lane, Waterfoot, in 1875, when he employed 4 girl assistants. The slipper idea is supposed to have stemmed from the local felt workers who fashioned rough slippers from odd pieces of felt.

Shortly afterwards Mr Rothwell was involved in starting other slipper firms in the area, but it was Mr W H Trickett, who commenced in the trade on his own account in 1883, who was responsible for the industry developing by leaps and bounds. By 1895 he was employing 1,000 workers. He was an outstanding personality who was Alderman and Mayor for 5 years and knighted for his services to the area. He died at the early age of 56 in 1913 and a memorial was erected at the entrance to the Arcade which he had built at Waterfoot some years earlier.

QUARRYING

By 1880, due to the great industrial growth, both coal mining and quarrying were major local industries not only supplying the needs of the area but much further afield. The so called "Haslingden Flag" found in quarries throughout Rossendale, which was easily split into thin slabs, was used to pave the 19th century cities and towns of Britain and was even exported for use on the Continent. Also by this time most of the larger quarries, and even many of the coal mines, were connected to either the main railway lines, or roads, by a series of tramways across the moors. Some of these tramways terminated in the form of inclines, as in the case of the one at Cloughfold, which linked 11 miles of track across the moors with the main railway line.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION

Religion has long been an important influence in Rossendale. In the Middle Ages the monks of Whalley Abbey owned vast tracts of land in the area. Haslingden Parish Church could well be on a Saxon site and was certainly in use in the 13th century. The base of a double cross outside the tower dates from Saxon times. There are also stocks and an old chest inside the church. St Nicholas' at Newchurch was originally a Chapel of Ease to Whalley. The first church of 1511 was rebuilt in 1560, and due to an increase in the population of the area enlarged in 1753, but largely rebuilt again in 1824-5.

In 1689, Quakers, together with other Non-conformists were granted toleration and allowed to license meeting houses. In 1715, the Friends' Meeting House at Crawshawbooth was built, being one of the first Quaker meeting houses in Lancashire.

The Goodshaw Baptist Chapel was founded in 1753 and has recently been taken into care by the Department of the Environment, in order that it can be carefully restored and preserved as a National Monument. In 1852 the Rehoboth Particular Baptist Church was built in Goodshaw Fold Village.

John Maden in 1746 brought a Methodist evangelist from Todmorden to preach in his house at Heap Barn near Sharneyford, and on a site in Lane Head Lane Bacup stood the first Methodist chapel in Rossendale where John Wesley preached in 1761 and later.

Many churches were built in Rossendale during the 19th century, both Church of England and Non-conformist. These were built and largely maintained by landowning, or manufacturing, families who made regular attendance on the Sabbath a condition of employment. Some masters saw churchgoing as a wonderful aid to discipline. Countless sermons were preached on the virtues of hard work and thrift, and many a master who nodded in approval regarded his success in business as a sign of divine reward. Yet, those who believed they were so favoured were often passionately concerned to improve society.

David Whitehead, of Rawtenstall, was a staunch Methodist, who by building a church, a school and good houses, by starting a Savings Bank and by encouraging temperance, did much to transform the "wild men" of the Rossendale valley into responsible citizens. David Whitehead and his brothers, soon after the completion of Longholme Church, had a disagreement with the Wesleyan cause and so they built another, even more magnificent, chapel a short distance away on Haslingden Road in Rawtenstall.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY COUNTRY HOUSES

In the 18th and early 19th centuries a number of fine country houses were built, or extended, of which Forest House, Stubbylee and Broadclough Halls in Bacup, Healey Hall on the boundary of Whitworth and Rochdale. Carter Place Hall in Haslingden and Sunnyside in Crawshawbooth, are the best examples.

NINETEENTH CENTURY MANSIONS

However, by the middle of the 19th century the rich barons of the Industrial Revolution were building great mansions in fine landscaped settings in Rossendale. These were usually located a little way up the hillsides with fine views of the surrounding countryside; the factories, chimneys and industrial housing being hidden from view below.

Although a number of these houses, including Staghills which was one of the finest, have gone, a great number fortunately still survive more or less intact. These include Crawshaw Hall in Crawshawbooth, Holly Mount, Ashday Lea and Horncliffe in Rawtenstall, Heightside and Ashlands in Waterfoot and Rockcliffe House in Bacup.

EDUCATION

On the educational front the first school in Rossendale was built at Boothfold in 1701 This continued until 1787 and was then converted into cottages which were still standing in 1922. The school was then transferred to the top of Bridleway in Newchurch in 1830, and became known as Newchurch Grammar School. This later became Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School.

THE ST ANNE'S-ON-THE-SEA LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY

One of the greatest enterprises of the 19th century Rossendale industrialists was the building of St Anne's-on-the-Sea and to achieve this the St Anne's-on-the-Sea Land and Building company was registered in October 1874, and held its meetings in the Queens Arms Hotel in Rawtenstall. The initial directors from Bacup, Rawtenstall and Haslingden, were later joined by William John Porritt, a Helmshore woollen manufacturer, who built splendid houses and took charge of the venture at a critical moment to ensure its success.

Messrs Maxwell and Tuke, Architects of Bury, who had been responsible for Southport Winter Gardens and many buildings in Rossendale, and who were later to design Blackpool Tower, were appointed to design the scheme. It was envisaged that industrialists could even live there and commute to their work in Rossendale and some eventually did, although considerable effort and money went into making the venture a success, including the transportation of vast quantities of local stone from Rossendale for use in the new buildings.

THE FADING OF THE GOLDEN AGE

The main industries of the area namely, cotton, footwear, coalmining and quarrying, continued to flourish and expand up to the end of the First World War. From about 1920 onwards the quarrying industry declined dramatically and many of the mineral tramways fell into disuse. This was due to the great increase in the use of brick, concrete and other materials. However, various quarries have from time to time experienced a short-lived new lease of life in

recent years to provide materials for new motorway and road construction in Yorkshire and the North West.

The coalmining industry likewise suffered a gradual decline, largely due to the poor quality of the coal, although there was a temporary revival in the early 1960's due to certain open cast schemes in Bacup. To-day there is only one pit operating in the Dean area of Rossendale.

Both the cotton and footwear industries continued to expand until the great slump at the beginning of the 1930's. At this time the footwear industry was employing about 7,000 people. Since that time both have experienced a gradual decline, especially in recent years, with the severe competition from overseas and a world recession. Whilst the textile industry is now very small, the footwear industry has survived better.

As a result of this decline many of the old mills have been demolished but sufficient still remain, together with their well constructed stone terraced houses, to give a good idea of the building achievements of the local industrialists.

Dr Beeching had axed all the railway lines in Rossendale, with the exception of the Bury to Rawtenstall line, by 1966. This survived as a goods line until the early 1980's and there are hopes that it will soon be opened as a "steam" route by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society. The railway has largely been replaced with the completion of the M66 motorway in the late 1970's giving quick access to Greater Manchester and the M62 motorway.

THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL REVOLUTION

Since the late 1960's serious attempts have been made to improve the image of the area. The launching of the Civic Trust for the North West's "Operation Springclean", with Government financial backing, led to many public buildings in town centres and on main roads throughout the area being cleaned. This revealed, for the first time in living memory, the great wealth of fine buildings, especially those dating from the 19th century.

At the same time with the advent of clean air, especially in Greater Manchester, experimental tree planting took place with more established trees throughout the area started to grow rapidly.

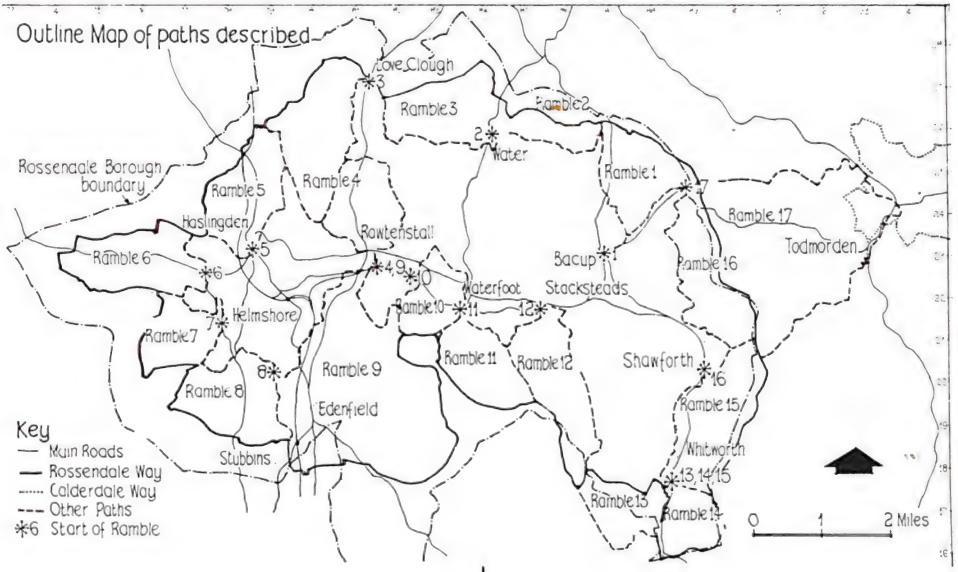
Shortly after local government re-organisation the Government made generous grants available for the removal of derelict land, of which Rossendale had one of the largests amounts in the whole of the North West. They also made grants available to encourage woodland tree planting as an amenity and great advantage has been taken of these two measures by both the Borough and County Councils.

Hill subsidies to farmers have also meant that much of the land has been improved and now lush green pastures climb higher up on to the moors than they did a few years ago. Likewise, pollution in the rivers has largely been removed such that the Irwell once again supports aquatic life.

Thus whilst a great heritage of monuments from the past still remain the Environmental Revolution which has been steadily gathering momentum during the past 15 years has now made Rossendale a "Jewel in the Crown of the South Pennines", which is certain to attract many tourists in the years to come.

FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE!

* Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
* Guard against all risk of fire.
* Fasten all gates.
* Keep your dogs under close control.
* Keep to public paths across farmland.
* Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
* Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
* Take your litter home.
* Help to keep all water clean
* Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
* Take special care on country roads.
* Make no unnecessary noise



SAFETY ON THE MOORS

Anyone wishing to undertake the walks described in this book should bear in mind the variety of terrain and weather conditions which might be encountered. Stretches can be hazardous and ramblers are strongly recommended to take the following precautions:

Plan your route beforehand and leave details with someone.

Give yourself plenty of time; take some food and drink with you.

Use the proper equipment - stout boots, spare clothing, waterproofs - and take a map and compass with you.

In case you have difficulties take a torch, and a whistle. (The international distress signal is six long blasts or flashes at ten second intervals followed by a pause of one minute).

Exercise extra caution in wintertime as the weather can change rapidly. Colourful clothing can be very helpful for identification from a distance.
In an emergency dial 999. Ask for Police who can contact Rossendale Fell Rescue Team.

Key to Symbols used on Maps

- Rossendale Way
- Calderdale Way
- Other paths or routes described
- Other footpaths not necessarily public right of way
- Railway Line and Station
- Main Road usually with bus service
- Minor Road or Lane
- Unfenced Road or Track
- River or Brook with direction of flow
- Site of local, historical or archaeological interest
- Line of dismantled tramway
- Trees and Woodland
- Hillside
- Crag, scar or quarry face
- Derelict land
- —22— National Grid line reference number
- Building
- Church or Chapel
- Triagulation Station
- Hilltop
- Viewpoint
- BS Boundary stone or Boundary post
- LS Ladder stile
- S Stile
- G Gate
- GW Gateway
- CG Cattlegrid
- KG Kissing gate
- FB Footbridge B Bridge
- 3 Reference numbers in text

Where symbols are linked for instance 'SG' indicates that the stile is to the left of the gate in direction of approach

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Ramble No 1

From Bacup around Sharneyford and Deerplay

DISTANCE: Approximately six and a half miles.

TIME REQUIRED: The time given for each walk allows for an easy walking pace with stops to admire the views and sites of interest. For this walk allow four and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The path is weli defined and for much of its route is along old highways. The first section of the walk involves an easy climb from Bacup town centre which gradually flattens out towards the Lancashire/West Yorkshire boundary at almost 1300 ft. above sea level.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service to Bacup from Rawtenstall, Rochdale, and Burnley and a less frequent service from Todmorden.

PARKING: There is a car park at the starting point of the walk and there are a number of other car parks in and adjacent to the town centre.

Particular features of this walk are the bleak hillsides which give rise to the River Irwell. Much of the area covered was once important for the coalmining industry and about 150 years ago it would be more populated than it is to-day.

1 This walk starts at the car park in front of the Police Station.

Bacup has been described by the Department of the Environment as "the best remaining example of a small Lancashire cotton town" and the central area was designated a Conservation Area by Rossendale Borough Council a few years ago. For those interested in following an historic Town Trail at the beginning and end of this walk a more detailed map of the town centre is provided indicating a suggested route together with buildings and sites of interest.

The car park in front of the Police Station was formerly the site of the Open Market until it moved to its new site in 1956 on account of the reluctance of many people to climb up the steep hill. Look over the railings at the NE corner to view Elgin Street, the shortest street in Bacup. Bacup Police Station is better known as Hartley Police Station in the BBC Television "Juliet Bravo" series. Until 1920 the Council Chamber was located in this building.

Initially, a short detour up Bankside Lane to see Forest House is worthwhile.

On the right you will see St John's Vicarage and just beyond the grass open space, Ivy Cottage, a good example of a carefully restored 18th century cottage with stone mullioned windows. Above, in their landscaped setting, Bankside House and Bankside Hall are fine examples of 19th century executive residences. A little further on, over a wall to the left, you will see Forest House which is architecturally one of the most important buildings in Bacup. Built in 1828 in the classical style by John Foster, an architect from Liverpool, possibly for his own occupation, Forest House had a fine staircase and elaborate plaster work until about 1975 when it suffered two disastrous fires. This fine classical building, which is being restored, dominates the small and compact town centre from its elevated location.

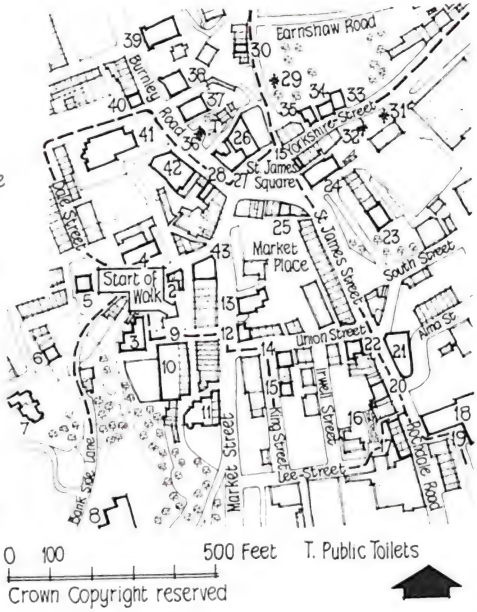
Retrace your steps back to the Police Station and turn left into Bank Street.

Bank Street is a fine example of a sandstone setted road and gives a good idea of the appearance of an important highway in the last century. The fine building on the right was formerly the Market Hall, which was opened in 1867 and closed in 1956 when the Open Market moved to its new site. Note the interesting lock-up shop units under the Market Hall fronting on Lord Street. At the southern end of Lord Street is the Zion Baptist Sunday School which was erected in 1913 and also has a number of lock-up shop units fronting on to Market Street. The attractive building forming a focal point at the end of Bank Street was formerly the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank which later became Martins Bank until it was amalgamated with the

Town Trail

Bacup Town Centre
Key to Buildings and Sites of Interest

1. Former Market Place
2. Elgin Street
3. Police Station
4. St Mary's Roman Catholic Church
5. St John's Vicarage
6. Ivy Cottage
7. Bankside Hall
8. Forest House
9. Bank Street
10. Former Market Hall
11. Zion Baptist Sunday School
12. Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank
13. Market Hotel
14. British Queen Inn
15. Fine Victorian Shopfronts
16. River Irwell
17. Industrial Place
18. Maden Baths
19. Bath Street
20. New Inn
21. Co-operative Store
22. Waterloo Inn
23. Conservative Club
24. Mechanics Hall
25. Boots Building
26. No 6 and No 8 St. James Square
27. Former Hotel
28. Fine Shopfront
29. Grave of Mary Harrison
30. Site of First Methodist Chapel
31. Bacup Stocks
32. Crushing Circle
33. Bacup Natural History Society
34. Fine Shopfront
35. No 18 and No 20 Yorkshire Street
36. War Memorial
37. Post Office
38. New Liberal Club
39. Waterside Methodist Church
40. Old Liberal Club
41. St. John's Parish Church
42. Former Cinema
43. Manchester and County Bank



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nearby Barclays Bank a few years ago and is now a restaurant.

Cross the pedestrian crossing in Market Street turning right and immediately left into Union Street and then first right into King Street.

The British Queen Inn is a pleasing building dating from the turn of the century and beyond in King Street a fine late Victorian building will be seen with a magnificent shop front from the same date remaining intact.

Now turn left into Lee Street and proceed ahead.

Note the River Irwell to the left. The building facing is Industrial Place and is interesting since no doubt the northern section originally comprised weavers' dwellings with loom shops over and some of the takin' in steps still remain.

Pass round the northern end of Industrial Place onto Rochdale Road.

Opposite you will see the Maden Baths which were given to Bacup by Henry Maden JP, who lived at Rockcliffe House. They were presented to the Corporation by John Henry Maden MP on their completion in 1893.

To the right of the Maden Baths is Bath Street which is worth a short detour.

Bath Street is another fine example of a sandstone setted road.

Retrace your steps and proceed along Rochdale Road in a northerly direction towards the town centre.

On the left you will see the New Inn and on to the right the Co-operative store with its distinctive Co-op type design. At the corner of Union Street, set back on the left, is the Waterloo Inn, a pleasing early 19th century building astride the River Irwell. Note the glass pieces which show movement.

On entering St James Street the carriageway widens with gardens to the right.

The culverted River Irwell runs under the gardens. Behind is the Conservative Club built in 1893. It was originally a three-storey building but the top floor was removed a few years ago. At the end of the gardens is the Mechanics' Institute built in 1846 for £1,300. The front of the building was reconstructed in 1929. About 1930 it became Bacup's Public Library.

Town Trail

St James Street leads into St James Square.

This was created in 1925 by the demolition of a block of property which included the George & Dragon Inn and Gibson's Tripe Shop. Opposite to the Mechanics' Institute is the four-storey building occupied by Boots which has some unusual oval windows to an upper floor. Facing, and on the corner of Burnley Road, is the fine hotel building with its clock tower, being a good example of "Art Nouveau" architecture. The building known as No 6 St James Square is possibly the best example of a 1930s' building in Rossendale and was built by Bacup Corporation as the Electricity Offices at the time they were the Electricity Authority. Notice the old Bacup Coat of Arms. For a time a Committee room for the Council was accommodated in a room on the first floor and for the eight and a half years that the Borough of Rossendale had a separate Planning Department from 1974 until 1982 it was located in this building.

Leave St James Square via Lane Head Lane alongside Woolworth's store.

To the right, immediately behind the Little Queen Public House you will see the nicely restored west elevation of Nos 18 and 20 Yorkshire Street with their fine range of weaving windows. These are probably the oldest buildings remaining in Bacup town centre to-day.

Lane Head Lane rises steeply and there is a retaining wall to the landscaped area on the right.

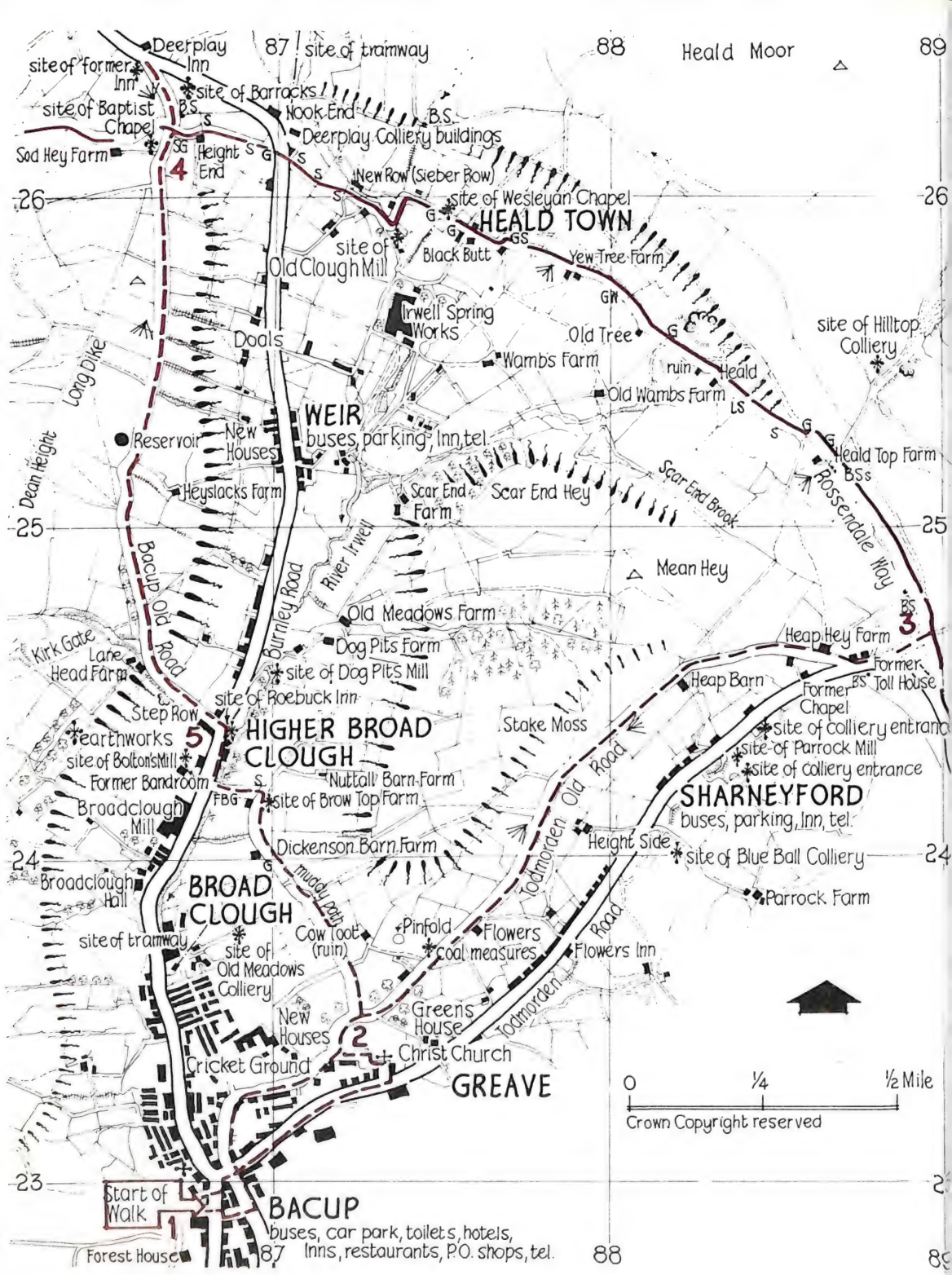
Here formerly stood the Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, the largest chapel built in Bacup. The graveyard still remains and the second stone from the northern end marks the grave of Mary Harrison, the oldest resident of Bacup who lived to be 109. The inscription reads as follows: "Also here lieth the Body of MARY HARRISON Mother of the above Betty Lord who departed this Life 21st December 1818, in the 109th Year of her age (She liv'd the last eighteen years of her life in the Family of James Maden of Greens House and nurs'd his children, the youngest after she was 102 years old)". On the left-hand side of Lane Head Lane at No 18 a plaque marks the site of the "first Methodist Chapel in Rossendale where Wesley preached in AD. 1761 and later".

At the brow of the hill, turn right along Greensnook Lane by Lane Head cricket ground.

Note the attractive 18th century cottages in Croft Street to the right. Bacup Cricket Club was established in 1860, 13 years after the Ten Hour Day Act reduced working hours from 70 to 55 and a half per week. Moses Heap complained "We did not know how to pass our time away; before it had all been bed and work...Cricket and football became the most popular sports". Cricket heroes at Lane Head included Everton Weekes, Ted MacDonald and Bacup's own son, Jimmy Midgley. On the hillside ahead

Industrial Place

Town Trail


Deerplay Inn
site of former Inn
site of Baptist Chapel
Sod Hey Farm
site of tramway
site of Barracks
Hook End
Deerplay Colliery buildings
Height End
New Row (Sieber Row)
site of Wesleyan Chapel
HEALD TOWN
Heald Moor
site of Old Clough Mill
Black Butt
Yew Tree Farm
Irwell Spring Works
Old Tree
Wambs Farm
ruin
Heald
Old Wambs Farm
site of Hilltop Colliery
Long Dike
Dean Height
Doals
WEIR
buses, parking, Inn, tel.
Reservoir
New Houses
Heyslacks Farm
Scar End Farm
Scar End Hey
Scar End Brook
Heald Top Farm
Rossendale Way
Mean Hey
Bacup Old Road
River Irwell
Burnley Road
Old Meadows Farm
Dog Pits Farm
site of Dog Pits Mill
Kirk Gate
Lane Head Farm
Step Row
site of Roebuck Inn
Heap Hey Farm
Heap Barn
Former Toll House
Former Chapel
earthworks
HIGHER BROAD CLOUGH
Stake Moss
site of colliery entrance
site of Parrock Mill
site of colliery entrance
site of Bolton's Mill
Former Bandroom
Nuttall Barn Farm
site of Brow Top Farm
SHARNEYFORD
buses, parking, Inn, tel.
Broadclough Mill
Dickenson Barn Farm
Todmorden Old Road
Height Side
site of Blue Ball Colliery
Broadclough Hall
BROAD CLOUGH
muddy path
Parrock Farm
site of tramway
site of Old Meadows Colliery
Cow Foot (ruin)
Pinfold
Flowers Coal measures
Flowers Inn
Todmorden Road
New Houses
Greens House
Cricket Ground
Christ Church
GREAVE
0
¼
½ Mile
Crown Copyright reserved
Start of Walk
BACUP
buses, car park, toilets, hotels, Inns, restaurants, P.O. shops, tel.
Forest House
87
88
89
26
25
24
23

to the left is a fine stone Pinfold where stray livestock, usually sheep, would be impounded until, upon payment of a fine, their owners reclaimed them. Sheep were held to be so valuable that, in 1827, three Bacup men were taken away to Lancaster and hung for sheep stealing.

Continue as far as the old Greensnook Farm which is on the right-hand side.

Note the datestone "LL:IL:1704" These initials may stand for Lawrence Lord and his wife.

2 Bear left up the macadamed lane opposite Greensnook Farm with a stone wall on either side.

The path is waymarked by the symbol.

1

Soon, over to the right, you will get a fine view of Christ Church designed in the Decorated Style with its SW tower and high staircase turret. It was built in 1854 to the design of Sharpe & Paley.

The countryside immediately becomes very attractive. Follow the macadamed road which steadily climbs, ignoring unsurfaced tracks off to the left and the right.

The ruins of Cow Toot soon come into view to the left and a little further on are Laneside Cottages dating from the 18th century. Note the coal measures visible to the left a short distance beyond the cottages. Opencast coal mining was carried out in this area in 1956 and 1957.

Soon the road surfacing ceases and the track begins to level out at Flowers Farmhouse. Height Side comes into view to the right.

Below Height Side and to the east of Todmorden Road is the site of Blue Ball Colliery which took its name from a nearby farmstead. The miners at this colliery experienced much more arduous lives than their weaver neighbours. The census of 1841 records that one family at Blue Ball had six sons in the mines, the youngest being only 8 years old. This Lane, known as Todmorden Old Road traversing the hillside towards the moorland heights was, until the turn of the 19th century, the main route to Todmorden and Yorkshire. There is a fine view looking back over Bacup and the Rossendale moors dominated by Cowpe Lowe.

Beyond Height Side there are fine views all around and the weather beaten Heap Barn is soon reached on the right.

Up to the turn of the 19th century carters could hire a team of extra horses from Heap Barn to haul their heavy loads up the stiff climb. In 1746 John Maden, the owner of Heap Barn, brought William Darney, a disciple of John Wesley, to preach to the local people. We are told "the place, the company and the preacher were in admirable harmony for in an old barn, on a wild moor an uncouth and half-civilised congregation listened to the word of life from the lips of a gaunt and intrepid Scotsman".

The track now rises, then descends, past Heap Hey Farm which is on the right.

Heap Hey is a good example of a carefully restored farmhouse.

The track then passes some derelict cottages on the left-hand side dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, and then an electricity pylon before turning left on to the main Todmorden Road.

The building to the right along Todmorden Road, below Heap Hey Farm, was formerly Sharneyford Chapel and was used as a garage for Hargreaves Colliery steam wagon between 1914 and the late 1920s'.

A few yards along Todmorden Road on the left is a white painted building which was formerly the Sharneyford Toll House.

This Toll House was built at the same time as the turnpike road. Note the bay window hard up against the carriageway enabling the toll keeper to have a good view of approaching traffic in each direction.

Immediately beyond the Toll House the road crosses from Lancashire into West Yorkshire.

An attractive sign presented by the Rotary Club of Todmorden in 1959 marks the Todmorden boundary. Beyond is the West Yorkshire boundary sign and behind this there is the old stone wall upon which the original West Riding of Yorkshire boundary sign was mounted.

Leave the main road by the tarmacadamed track straight ahead. A junction is shortly reached at which the Rossendale Way is joined.

3 Bear left along the lower track making towards Heald Top Farm.

RW The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol. *This lane is part of the old Limers' Gate, travelled by the Limers with their "Lime-galls" (Galloway ponies) laden with sacks of lime from Clitheroe to be sold to the farmers on these acid uplands. The Limers' Gate continues around the sweep of moorland to Deerplay in the distance, thence over the saddle of Crown Point towards Pendle and Clitheroe. Many neatly carved boundary stones can be found hereabouts. The large electricity pylons which stride across the next section of our route are part of the Central Electricity Generating Board's 400KV Super Grid system. The line runs between the Drax and Egborough Power Stations in Yorkshire and Penwortham near Preston. It was erected in 1969 by British Insulated Callender's Construction Co Ltd., employing helicopters to move the required concrete and steelwork to remote moorland locations. The small pylons which pass underneath in a "diamond crossing" are 10 years older, and connect Rochdale with Nelson. Despite the proximity of overhead high voltage wires, Heald Top Farm was, until November 1981, supplied by its own generator and electricity was then connected as part of a plan to upgrade the farm for dairying. A plaque over the main entrance of Heald Top Farmhouse reads as follows: "Rebuilt during the Mastership of Mr John Bentley AD 1829". John Bentley was the headmaster of Newchurch Grammar School between 1810 and 1840 and the rent from this farm and Old Meadows Farm provided John Bentley's salary. Near here are two boundary stones which mark the junction of the Boroughs of Calderdale, Burnley and Rossendale. From this point on a clear day there is a fine view over the wall to the left with Bacup far down in the valley below and the Rossendale hills dominated by Cowpe Lowe. Beyond on the most distant range of moors the radio masts and TV transmitter on Winter Hill can be picked out.*

At Heald Top Farm the track to the old Hilltop Colliery veers off to the right. Ignore this and continue straight ahead passing through a gate leading on to a grassy track. A few yards ahead pass through a small gate in the wall to the left adjacent to a section of wooden fencing. The Rossendale Way now swings off to the right making for an opening with a stile to the left. Follow along by the low stone wall and post and wire fence to a ladder stile ahead.

Over to the left there is a small valley with evidence of coal workings.

Proceed straight ahead and the Rossendale Way soon becomes a well defined grassy track.

To the left is the 17th century ruined building with fine stone quoins and stone slates of diminishing courses known as Heald. Beyond is a further ruin and to the right the remains of a sandstone quarry which produced stone flags and ashlar blocks for fine buildings.

The track leads onward. Ignore an obvious left turn and pass through the gate ahead making for the white painted Yew Tree Farm, but first passing the 18th century barn originally known as "Old Tree".

Over to the left there are good views of Weir Village, also some fairly recent afforestation together with the lodges and remains of the Irwell Spring Works in an attractive wooded setting. These works were started in 1833 as the Turkey Red Dyeworks.

At Black Butt the Rossendale Way takes a left and right dogleg, passing over a stile to the right of the gate.

This building was, in the last century, an Inn reputedly called the "Black

Rossendale Way

Site of Old Heald Wesleyan Chapel

Buck" on account of its weather vane fashioned as a black rabbit.

Ahead the track divides at a cluster of late 18th century buildings, the remnants of Heald Town.

Note the lane uphill, obviously once busy enough to merit the rounded corner to the flanking building.

Select the narrow walled lane straight ahead passing through a metal gate.

On the right is a large stone inscribed as follows: "This stone erected by the Heald Wesleyan Church marks the site of the old Heald Wesleyan Chapel and School 1832 -1868". This bears witness to the fact that Heald Town was once a thriving community based on stone-quarrying and in 1841 about 107 people lived here. The ruined cottages a little further on to the right, past a gate, were known as Clough Terrace.

The track swings sharp left downhill.

Note the sluice gate controlling the inlet to a lodge built to serve what was known as Irwell Spring, or Old Clough Mill, which was built in 1824 and demolished early this century. Irwell Spring boasted a band named after it which reached its peak in 1913.

The Rossendale Way then turns right and over to the right you will see the small River Irwell and a fine stone arched bridge.

At 1125 ft. above sea level this is one of the first of many which cross over this hard-worked river. The name Irwell or Ere-Well is thought to be Anglo Saxon and mean the "hoar" or "white spring". Beyond, on the right, is New Row formerly a terrace of 5 or 6 workers' cottages built by Charles Henry Sieber of Irwell Spring Printworks in about 1877. Initially known as "Sieber Row" the property has recently been restored to form two dwellings now known as "Clough Hey" and "Clough View".

Take the stile in the wall facing where the road bends round to the left and climb up a sunken track to a wooden stile; thence follow a post and wire fence to a stone stile at the former coal depot (or sett) of Deerplay Colliery which closed in 1968.

The adjacent small red brick building was the old Weigh Office and the other buildings beyond were possibly built in the 1950s' as offices. A tramway formerly linked this depot with the Colliery to the north where evidence of coal working can still be seen.

A few yards up and across the Bacup-Burnley Road take the gated stile in a stone wall.

This road was built by the Rochdale and Burnley Turnpike Trust which was formed in 1754.

The path now leads across a field and stile and alongside a wall to a stile at Height End Farm. Pass through the farmyard and over a stile on the left-hand side of the gate turning left into the surfaced lane known as Bacup Old Road leaving the Rossendale Way.

To the right can be seen the Deerplay Inn, worth a short detour for those requiring refreshment since bar snacks and meals are provided during opening hours. This Inn, which is 1320 ft. above sea level, is said to be the sixth highest in England. It was originally located on

the opposite side of the road and then moved to the present building, which was formerly a farm, about the middle of the 19th century. At one time it was known as the "Stag's Head" and one of the owners of the present building, when it was a farm, was a relative of Dick Turpin who is reputed to have stayed there. Behind and to the left of the Inn can be seen, proud on the hill, a striking memorial to the men of Weir Village who died in the Great War. The fine site chosen for the monument actually lies just outside the Parish and Borough boundary. A few degrees left again of the memorial can be seen the saddle of Crown Point, the route taken by the old limers' track with fine views of Longridge and the Bowland Fells in the distance. To the south of Deerplay, in the field between the two roads, barracks were located in the middle of the 19th century. The timber fences hereabouts indicate the extent of the open cast coal mining which took place in this area in the early 1960's.

4 Proceeding south on Bacup Old Road, about 10 yards on the right, can be seen the stone marking the site of Deerplay Baptist Chapel.

The inscription reads as follows: "This stone erected by the Baptist Church, Doals, marks the site of the Deerplay Baptist Chapel and School 1841 to 1862". Bacup Old Road is held by some to be an ancient saltway along which valuable salt was transported from Cheshire saltmines, much like the lime from Clitheroe, on the backs of pack mules.

The lane rises very slightly and unexpectedly there is a fine panorama to the south.

On a clear day from the south-east to the west can be seen Brown Wardle Hill, the distant hills of the Peak District, Cowpe Lowe, the Holcombe Moors, Cribden and Darwen Tower which is just visible.

After passing a covered reservoir on the right the lane becomes most attractive as it descends through the remnants of Lane Head Plantation.

A little further on a path known as the "Kirk Gate" led up to join Bacup Old Road. This was used by worshippers from the Weir area to travel to St Nicholas' Church, Newchurch (a distance of some 4 miles each way) from the establishment of that Church in 1511 until St John's was built at Bacup in 1788.

At Lane Head Farm the road bears round to the left and descends steeply towards Step Row, passing a small quarry on the right worked for local buildings.

A short distance to the south-west of Lane Head Farm are located some earthworks. These earthworks are said by T T Wilkinson to be at least of Danish origin manned by a confederate army of Danes, Welsh and Scots under Anlef, to defend the paths to Burnley during the Battle of Brunanburgh against the forces of the Saxon King Athelstan in the 10th century. The Saxons won the day and the surviving Danes were routed from the earthworks to flee to Ireland. Step Row comprises 5 pairs of early 19th century houses stepped down the hill, which are unusual for Rossendale. Across the main road are the two listed properties known as 2 and 4 Lord's Court; No 4 was formerly "Ye Olde Village Stores". To the left is the site of the Roebuck Inn, an old post house beside the old pack mule route. It was demolished a few years ago and had an interesting two-storey porch carrying three stone finials and a date stone inscribed "I.L. 1739". The initials referred to a man called John Lord. Inside the porch was a small recess said to be where tankards could be left while mules were being tended in the courtyard.

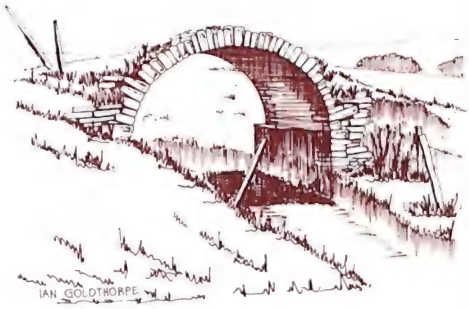
Turn right down the main road for 150 yards and take the foot bridge known as Carr Bridge which crosses the River Irwell on the left. **5**

On the right-hand side of this short stretch of road is the site of Bolton's Mill, or Higher Broadclough Mill, being the last water mill to survive in Bacup. The waterwheel went in about 1932. The Irwell Spring's Band latterly practised in the building set back

behind the road frontage. The Band was formed in 1864 and won the Belle Vue Contest in 1901 and 1905 and the Championship of Great Britain at the Crystal Palace in 1905, 1908 and 1913. They appeared at the Third Command Performance before King George V in March 1927.

The grassy path climbs steeply to Brow Top Farm. Cross the stile and turn right into a well defined track.

To the right in the valley below is Broadclough Hall, which was the home of the Whitaker family for over 300 years. It dates from 1666, but was extensively remodelled in the Regency Style about 1816. A little nearer is Broadclough Mill and low down on the facing hill are the remains of Broadclough Colliery which started life merely as an air level and travelling road to take Bacup miners to Grime Bridge, the entrance to which is 1 mile away near Dean. Above the colliery can be seen evidence once again of much earlier human endeavour. The pale green mound which contours the hillside with a wooded strip behind is known as Broadclough Dikes mentioned earlier.



Arch near Dickenson Barn Farm

Follow the lane past Dickenson Barn Farm and the fine stone arch.

This stone arch which probably dates from the early 19th century was built to carry a farm road. Below to the right was Old Meadows Colliery, the last National Coal Board pit in Rossendale which closed in 1969.

The track continues between high stone walls towards the tower of Christ Church. This section can be muddy at times.

At the macadamed lane turn right and at Greensnook Lane turn left to Christ Church and right down the fine setted road known as Christ Church Street. **2**

Thomas Newbigging, historian of "History of the Forest of Rossendale", lived in Christ Church Street.

Turn right again on to Todmorden Road proceeding back towards the town centre. At the beginning of Yorkshire Street, on the left in front of the Health Centre, note the Bacup Stocks and the Crushing Circle.

The Bacup Stocks 1749 - 1850 were discovered during excavations in Tong Lane in 1974 and re-erected near their original site in 1976. The Crushing Circle was removed from Guide Quarry, Sourhall, in 1979 and erected in its new position by the Bacup Natural History Society. The buildings on the left of Yorkshire Street form an interesting group and No 5 has a fine Victorian shop front. On the right are the headquarters of the Bacup Natural History Society which was founded in 1878. Its members over the years have done much good work and the Museum housed in the building contains many interesting items from Bacup's illustrious past. The building was at one time the Hare & Hounds Inn. The adjoining building was the former White Horse Inn and has interesting windows at ground floor level with the initials "B M B" and "1907" and a drainpipe head with "HIA 1770". Beyond, Nos 18 and 20 Yorkshire Street, already mentioned, have been converted into 5 dwelling units and 2 lock-up shops.

Pass through St James Square and turn right into Burnley Road.

Note the Manchester and County Bank, now the National Westminster Bank, a fine building dating from about the turn of the century. On the left No 8 Burnley Road has a fine shop front and a large window at first floor level. Nearby the New Embassy Bingo and Social Club, a

former cinema, has some interesting stonework embedded in its rear elevation with nicely carved lettering which possibly originally said "Bacup Public Hall" and doubtless came from a demolished early 19th century building. Opposite is the War Memorial and beyond on the left St John's Church built 1882-3 to the designs of Medland Taylor. It has an interesting patterned slate roof and the proposed S.W tower was never built. The present building replaced the previous church on the same site which was built in 1788 and became dangerous. On the right is the attractive Post Office building dating from early this century. Next is the A.B. & D Social Centre formerly the Liberal Club dated 1892 and beyond the Central Methodist Church, formerly the Waterside Methodist Free Church built in 1897.

Turn left by the north side of St John's Church.

The building on the right, now the Heritage Restaurant, and excellent for meals, was formerly the old Liberal Club. The whole block, which has recently been carefully restored, dates from the 18th century and the old Liberal Club was refronted and altered internally in the 19th century to fit it for its new role. For a number of years in the 20th century it was a training centre, board room and footwear museum for E Sutton & Sons.

At the top of the car park turn left into Dale Street and return to the starting point.

Town Trail

Ramble No 2

From Water Village around Deerplay and Clough Bottom

DISTANCE: Approximately five miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Three and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The path is easy to follow and for about half of its route is along well-defined tracks. The gradients are on the whole fairly gentle and the path climbs to just over 1,300 feet above sea level near Deerplay.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a fairly frequent bus service to Water from the Greater Manchester area via Rawtenstall and Waterfoot and a less frequent service between Rossendale and Burnley along Burnley Road East.

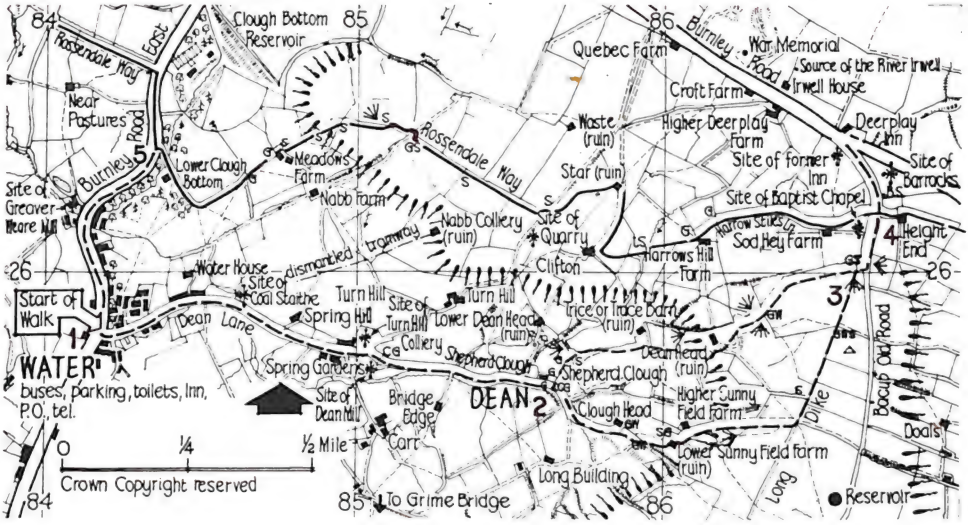
PARKING: There is a small car park attached to the Commercial Hotel and parking is permissible within the village.

The countryside covered by this walk is at the heart of the area shown as the "Forest of Rossendale" on the Ordnance Survey maps. Little of the area covered is wild moorland being for the most part enclosed pasture land. In earlier times it would be much more populated than it is to-day and it was once important for the coalmining industry, only one private pit, Grime Bridge Colliery remaining to-day.

This walk starts in Water village at the junction of Burnley Road East and Dean Lane. **1**

To-day Water village is for the most part a collection of 18th and 19th century residential properties. The majority of the properties date from the 19th century when the village expanded due to the textile and coal mining industries.

Proceed in an easterly direction along Dean Lane.



After a quarter of a mile on the left-hand side are the remains of the old coal staithe which served Nabb Colliery which operated between 1840 and 1954. There are also remains of the old sett (loading deck) and a tunnel which allowed animals passage over the tramway.

Dean Lane is a pleasant country road and the small settlement of Spring Gardens with its 19th century cottages is soon reached.

The path is waymarked by the symbol.

2

Spring Gardens had two sources of employment the Dean, or Spring, Cotton Mill which was operating in the 1840's and the Turn Hill Colliery which only operated from the late 1950's until the early 1960's. In 1858 there was a boiler explosion at Dean Mill which killed 3 people and injured 19 others. The mill was finally demolished about 1950.

Here the macadamed road finishes and the routes divide. Take the right-hand track which follows straight ahead along the valley crossing over a cattle grid.

The huts and compounds on the right-hand side at the beginning of this track mark the site of the former Dean Cotton Mill. Quite a lot of goats seem to be kept and bred in this village.

The lane soon enters a little valley known as Shepherd Clough.

To the right on elevated ground and in an attractive setting is Bridge End, a typical Pennine farmhouse, or laithe house, with a barn attached and a datestone "HAEA 1696". The road up to Bridge End crosses an attractive single arch bridge and beyond is a waterfall.

A little further on, in an attractive little clough to the left, are the ruins of Lower Dean Head.

Lower Dean Head is an attractive ruin containing windows dating from the 17th century. On the opposite side of Shepherd Clough for many years clay was excavated by a local brick company, but this site has recently been reclaimed.

From Shepherd Clough farmhouse there is an alternative route which is described first.

Take the footpath to the left beyond the farm buildings and before the cattle grid. The path passes through three small gates before traversing an open field alongside a post and wire fence gradually climbing up. **2**

Lower Dean Head

There are fine views of the surrounding moorlands and scattered farmhouses.

At the brow of the hill pass over a stile and continue uphill along the right-hand side of a cutting across the open pasture making for the ruins of Dean Head.

A few yards to the left in Abe Clough the Lower Mountain coal seam, which is three feet thick in places, is visible. A little further on to the left are the ruins of Trice Barn shown as "Trace" Barn on earlier maps. The remaining part of the front wall of Dean Head gives a good idea of what this largely 18th century farmhouse must originally have looked like. To the left of what was obviously a projecting porch there are the remains of a three light stepped mullioned window.

At Dean Head look back at the tremendous view westwards over the Rossendale hills which this former farmhouse commanded with Cribden clearly visible in the middle and over to the right the summit of Hameldon Hill with its transmitters and pylons. The path continues to climb uphill to the right of the ruins of Dean Head alongside a post and wire fence and follows to the left round the top of this fenced enclosure to join a clearly defined grassy track. After passing under a line of pylons the track begins to level out and the roofs of Sod Hey Farm come into view ahead. Soon a gate with a stile to the right of it is reached on the summit. Here turn left on to Bacup Old Road.

Here pause for a moment and enjoy the even more extensive vista with views of the moors on the Rossendale/Calderdale boundary and to the south Brown Wardle in Whitworth.

Follow the lane along the valley crossing the cattle grid just beyond Shepherd Clough. Ignoring tracks off to the left and right the lane terminates in front of Clough Head. Pass through the gateway at the east end of the farmhouse making for the ruins of Lower Sunny Field Farm along a green path passing through a gateway and then over a stile at the side of a gate. **2**

Lower Sunny Field Farm is locally famous as the site of the "Dean Sweetheart Murder". In 1817 John Nuttall killed his girlfriend, Ann White aged 24, and dumped her body in the well at Lower Sunny Field Farm. The body was found by Ann's sister. John Nuttall who came from the nearby Hollows Hill Farm, Deerplay, which was probably that known to-day as Harrows Hill, was hanged at Lancaster Castle.

The path passes round the west and north sides of Lower Sunny Field Farm ruins and on to a more clearly defined track which climbs steeply past Higher Sunny Field Farm.

Pause beyond Higher Sunny Field Farm and look back at the fine view of the Rossendale moors with Cribden Hill in the centre.

The track flattens out and just before a gate turn left along the footpath known as "Long Dike", an ancient ditch or mound. After passing over a stile and a further stile at the side of a gateway a track is joined. Turn right crossing over a stile to the right of a gate and then turn left on to Bacup Old Road.

Here pause for a moment and enjoy the even more extensive vista, with views of the moors on the Rossendale/Calderdale boundary and to the south Brown Wardle in Whitworth.

Proceeding north on Bacup Old Road a few yards along on the left-hand side can be seen a stone marking the site of the Deerplay Baptist Chapel. **3**

Alternative Route

The inscription reads as follows: "This stone erected by the Baptist Church, Doals, marks the site of the Deerplay Baptist Chapel and School, 1841 1862". Bacup Old Road is held by some to be an ancient salt way along which valuable salt was transported from Cheshire salt mines, much like the lime from Clitheroe, on the backs of pack mules.

The Deerplay Inn

4 A few yards further on the Rossendale Way is joined turning left into the farm track known as "Harrow Stiles Lane".

Ahead will be seen the Deerplay Inn worth a short detour for those requiring refreshment since bar snacks and meals are provided during opening hours. This Inn, which is 1,320 feet above sea level, is said to be one of the six highest in England. It had a datestone "RJEA 1709". It was originally located on the opposite side of the road and then moved to the present building, which was formerly a farm, about the middle of the 19th century. At one time it was known as the "Stag's Head" and one of the owners of the present building, when it was a farm, was a relative of Dick Turpin who is reputed to have stayed here. A quarter of a mile to the right of the Inn, the site of the former Deerplay Colliery can be picked out. The Burnley Road on which the Deerplay Inn is situated was built by the Rochdale and Burnley Turnpike Trust which was formed in 1754. Behind and to the left of the Inn can be seen, proud on the hill, a striking memorial to the men of Weir Village who died in the Great War. The fine site chosen for the monument actually lies just outside the parish and borough boundary. A few degrees left again of the memorial is the saddle of Crown Point, the route taken by the old limers' track with fine views of Longridge and the Bowland Fells in the distance. To the south of Deerplay, in the field between the two roads, barracks were located in the middle of the 19th century. Near the south-west corner of the same field one of the stones marking the boundary of the former Borough of Bacup is located, inscribed "BB 29". The timber fences hereabouts indicate the extent of the open cast coal mining which took place in this area in the early 1960's.

Returning back along Bacup Old Road turn right into Harrow Stiles Lane to join the Rossendale Way.

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol.

Harrow Stiles was originally called "Harvest Hills". Sod Hey Farm has some stepped mullioned windows and similar stepped mullioned windows have been copied in a new porch extension at the front.

Harrow Stiles Lane terminates at Harrows Hill Farm where a gate gives access into the farmyard. At the west end of the farmyard the Rossendale Way leaves via a gate giving access on to a green track which continues straight ahead to a ladder stile. The path now cuts across a meadow making for the right-hand corner of Clifton.

Clifton is an attractive, well maintained, largely 18th century building with a number of stepped mullioned windows, which was formerly two cottages.

The Rossendale Way now turns right along the farm track as far as the ruins of Star. At Star turn left and proceed diagonally across a large field in which is located an old stone trough. After a stile the path turns left on to a more clearly defined grassy track for a few yards and then right beyond a timber post at the rear of a stone wall.

Ahead in Clifton Clough are the remains of an old quarry which produced stone flags in the mid 19th century.

The path now continues straight ahead alongside a wall containing

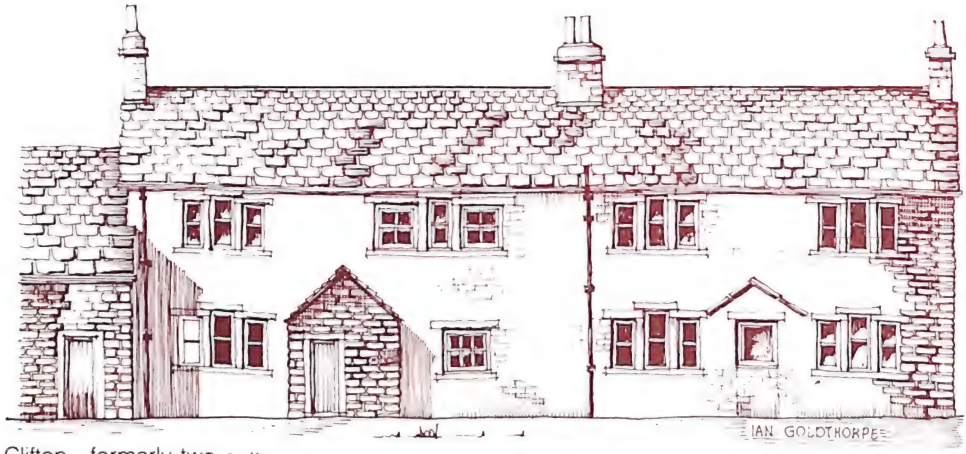
Detour

Detour

4

RW

Rossendale Way



Clifton - formerly two cottages

considerable evidence of iron in the stonework. After passing over a stile and continuing ahead a substantial waterworks wall is soon reached. Here the Rossendale Way passes either through a gate, or over a stile to the right and continues straight ahead now keeping the stone wall immediately on the left.

There are different types of walling in Rossendale including flag, and those with a number of different cappings such as buck and doe, sloping capstones, random verticle capstones and triangular capstones.

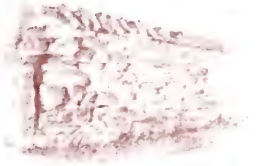
Soon the attractive Clough Bottom Reservoir comes into view. Look out for a slight bend in the wall and at this point the path crosses the wall over a stile.

Clough Bottom Reservoir was constructed between 1891 and 1896 by the Irwell Valley Water Board. Two more reservoirs were also originally proposed in the Dean Valley.

The path follows alongside the waterworks wall to a stile and then cuts across the field to the left making for the right-hand corner of a stone wall crossing a stile at this point and proceeding downhill to Meadows Farm. Pass over a further stile and follow the path along the right-hand end of the farm buildings through a gate, across some stepping stones over a boggy

Flag

Triangular Capstones



Ransom Vertical Capstones

Sloping Capstones

Buck and Doe

patch, then across a field towards a pylon and a further gate. Now follow alongside a wall round to Lower Clough Bottom, an attractively located property.

Quite a lot of new planting has been carried out in the vicinity of Lower Clough Bottom which is beginning to transform the character of this part of the valley making it much more attractive.

Beyond Lower Clough Bottom the path leaves the Rossendale Way which turns right into Burnley Road East.

Turn left into Burnley Road East and the starting point in Water Village is soon reached. **5**

On the right opposite the cottages known as "Graver Weir" was located Greaver Weare Mill and all that remains to-day is the lodge which originally served it.

Ramble No 3

From Love Clough around Water passing Compston's Cross

DISTANCE: Approximately seven miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Four and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The route of this walk is for the most part along grassy footpaths. Although climbing to just over 1,200 feet above sea level at Meadow Head the gradients are generally fairly gentle apart from a short steep section between Water Village and Compston's Cross.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service along Burnley Road between Rawtenstall and Burnley in each direction. In addition, the service between Manchester and Skipton passes through Love Clough.

PARKING: There is a large car park attached to the Huntsman Inn and parking is also permissible in nearby Commercial Street.

Particular features of this walk are the fine views of the Water Valley from the moors above Goodshaw. On the return path there are spectacular views from the ridge between Compston's Cross and Meadow Head.

1 This walk starts on Burnley Road in Love Clough at the junction with Commercial Street.

The name "Love Clough" means a wooded valley where the waters lay. The building opposite Commercial Street, now converted into a house known as "The Old School", was formerly the Love Clough National School which was built in 1846.

The Rossendale Way crosses Burnley Road at this point and the path initially follows this route by proceeding up a flight of steps adjacent to the south gable of the former Love Clough National School. After crossing a stile the path follows through a woodland and to the right Swinshaw Hall comes into view.

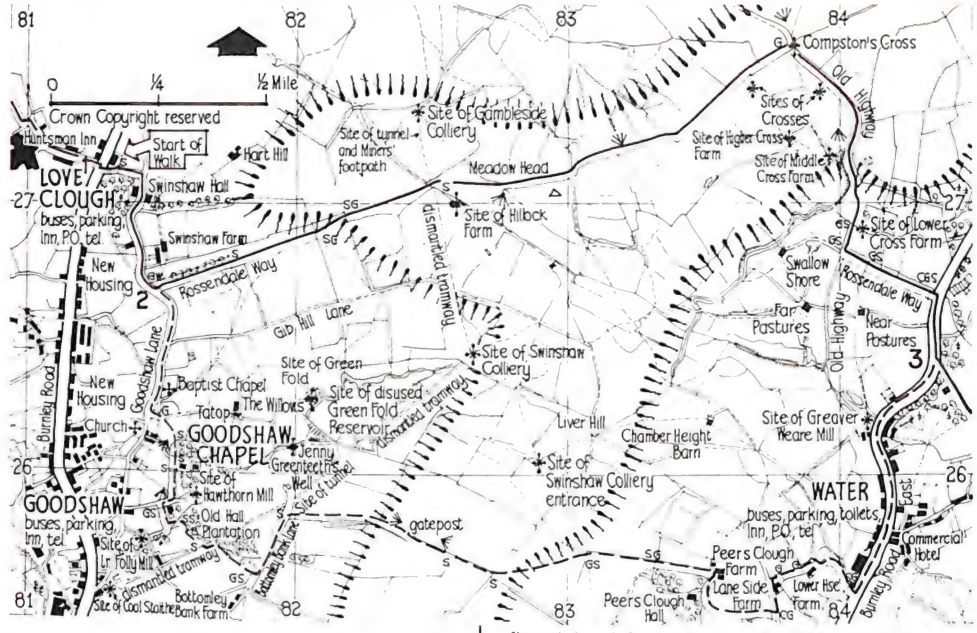
The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol: RW

Swinshaw Hall formed a dowry house for Towneley Hall and the chapel over the entrance was a private one for the Towneley family. The present building largely dates from 1847 although the site goes back to about 1550. "Swinshaw" means swine wood and there is said to be a secret underground passage connecting the house with Towneley Hall.

At Goodshaw Lane turn right.

The first section of Goodshaw Lane is very attractive, passing as it does between the high stone walls and beautiful trees of the grounds of Swinshaw Hall and Swinshaw Barn. The Swinshaw Hall stables once accommodated Kettledrum, the 1861 Derby winner which narrowly missed the Oakes as well.

Rossendale Way



Goodshaw Baptist Chapel

A little further on there is a new housing scheme on the right and opposite to this leave the Rossendale Way which turns off on to a footpath to the left.

2 Soon Goodshaw Baptist Chapel comes into view ahead.

Goodshaw Baptist Chapel was founded in 1753 and the first Pastor, John Nuttall, was one of the famous Dean Layrocks who was passionately fond of music. "Th' Deighn Layrocks" or Larks of Dean were a group of musicians from Rossendale whose society had flourished from the mid 18th century. Initially, many of the members came from the Dean area and were renouned for travelling long distances on foot over the moors for practices and concerts, often in cottage settings which would last late into the night. The chapel building has been taken into care by the Department of the Environment. The churchyard is special due to the numerous poems etc. on the tombs. The inscription on one gravestone reads as follows:

"To the memory of Giles Entwistle of Todd Hall who died in 1836 aged 54 years.

The world's a city full of crooked streets. And death's the market place, where all men meet, If life was merchandise, that men could buy, The rich would live and none but poor would die."

The inscription on another gravestone reads as follows:

"In memory of James Kemp, Haslingden, who died in 1872 aged 61 years.

My anvil and hammer has declin'd
My bellows too have lost their wind;
My fire's extinct, my forge decay'd
And in the dust my vice is laid,

My coals are spent, my irons gone,
My nails are drove, my work is done."

Just beyond the Baptist Chapel, on the left-hand side, is a large grassy area, once occupied by many cottages, with a track passing through it leading to a gate. Take this track.

At this point looking ahead along Goodshaw Lane is All Saints Church which was founded in 1542, although the present building only dates from about 1827. Opposite to All Saints Church is a house which was the White Horse Inn until about 1956. It was originally built as a farm and a public house by a woollen merchant and behind was a building used as a mortuary at times when the bad weather prevented burials. Originally, the monks of Whalley Abbey owned much of the land in the vicinity of Goodshaw.

Having passed through the gate branch off immediately to the right across the meadow making for a stile at the right-hand corner of a small woodland.

3 The path is waymarked by the symbol.

Pause at this point and look at the fine view ahead of Crawshawbooth in the valley below dominated by the huge St John's Parish Church and the woods of Crawshaw Hall formerly the home of the Brooks family.

The path passes to the right of a water authority building dated 1941 and after crossing two further stiles continue straight ahead towards a white house and a wooded valley. At the semi-metalled road turn right.

Stop here for a moment to enjoy the attractive view ahead of the stream and the woodland in the valley.

Just beyond the white house pass over the stile to the right of the gate and on reaching the woodland take the left-hand path to cross the stream by a series of stepping stones immediately above a waterfall.

This valley which has long been a local beauty spot is known as Folly Clough. Once large amounts of herbs, ferns, and bluebells grew in profusion. Hawthorn Mill, a cotton mill which started operating during the middle part of the 19th century, was located a little way upstream. It was demolished after a big fire in 1912. Further upstream is Jenny Greenteeth's Well.

The path now continues straight ahead up the hillside for a short distance to the left of the plantation. It then turns right crossing the stream on a stone bridge, or rampart, then immediately turning left continuing uphill on the right-hand side of the stream and plantation. Ahead the line of the dismantled coal tramway crosses the path immediately in front of a stile approached by a flight of interesting stone steps.

Stile near Folly Clough

In 1837 the first coal came down this tramway from Swinshaw Colliery which operated between 1820 and 1936.

Pass through this stile and continue straight ahead keeping to the right-hand side of the woodland. Over the brow of the hill the path becomes a clearly defined track making for a gate with a stile to the right. Turn left on to Bottomley Bank Lane. Soon a gate near the end of the walled section of this lane comes into view. At this point look out for a stile on the right where a

small stream crosses under the road. Pass through this stile and continue straight ahead keeping the stream immediately on the right. The grassy path soon becomes clearly defined. An isolated stone gatepost is soon reached.

Pause here and look at the fine view all around of the moors. To the south-west Crown Farm, like Bottomley Bank Farm, carries the initials "JM & TB" for John Marshall and Thomas Brooks and dates of 1852 and 1853.

The path now continues along the right-hand side of a stone wall, crossing a stile in a post and wire fence, and passing along a section of path which can be boggy at times before crossing a further stile giving access to a very large area of semi-moorland. Cut leftish across this moorland making slightly to the left of the white house on the knoll ahead. Cross over the stile to the right of the gate located in a slight valley. Continue straight ahead on a more clearly defined track which can often be muddy. Abreast of a woodland cross over a further stile to the left of a gate.

Peers Clough Hall

The track now has the remains of two lines of stone flags and over to the right in a wooded setting Peers Clough Hall, originally known as "Pierce Clough", can be seen. There is a 1752 datestone at the house, which was built by John and Mary Ormerod. A memorial stone to a horse is built into an outhouse at the hall. "In memory of Sally, 20-6-58". Sally was Constance Brooks' horse which strangled itself with a tether rope.

At Peers Clough Farm turn right on to a macadamed road which follows round a field past the gates to Peers Clough Hall to a cattle grid. Here turn left on to a lane known as Peers Clough Road.

Peers Clough Road was part of the ancient road network between Rochdale and Clitheroe before Burnley Road East in the valley below was built in the middle of the 19th century.

Take the track off to the right behind Lane Side Farm passing through a gate leading into a field with a series of stone flags marking the path. Pass through a further gate adjacent to Lower House Farm which leads on to a well defined track at the end of the farm house. Follow this down to a stile to the left of the gate giving access alongside Eden Methodist Church on to Burnley Road East at Forest Holme. Turn left and the village of Water is soon reached.

The attractive grass area immediately opposite the junction with Burnley Road East was originally occupied by a terrace of brick back-to-back houses. The Commercial Hotel on the right-hand side of Burnley Road East provides morning coffee and bar snacks during opening hours. To-day Water Village is, for the most part, a collection of 18th and 19th century residential properties with an attractive village green. The majority of the properties date from the 19th century when the village expanded due to the textile and coal mining industries.

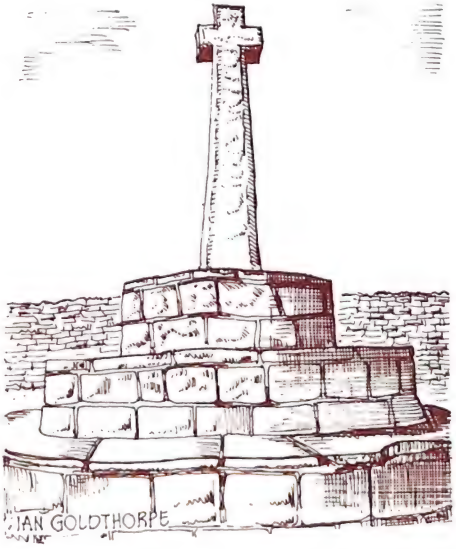
Proceed northwards from the village for about a third of a mile.

The last properties on the right in Water Village, recently changed and renovated, are known as "Graver Weir". On the opposite side of the road at this point is the site of the cotton mill originally known as "Greaver Weare Mill" which was operating in the mid 19th century, of which some walls and a chimney base remain.

At the point where the lane from Lower Clough Bottom joins Burnley Road East the Rossendale Way is again joined.

3 Proceed for a few yards further along Burnley Road East and the Rossendale Way is the second track off to the left which passes to the right-hand side of a large pylon. Cross over a stile to the right of a cattle grid and a further stile adjacent to a gate before turning right at a crossroads of tracks. The path now becomes grassy, passing through a stile at the side of a gate and leading up to a stone wall and an isolated Sycamore tree.

This marks the site of Lower Cross Farm. The track is part of the old highway from Burnley to Clitheroe which came via Limey Lane and Cross Farms thence over the shoulder of Liver Hill, down Laneside, past Catty Holme Fields and Ann's Fields (later known as Bob's Shop Lane after Robert Ashworth's Annis Mill, Lumb, demolished in 1909) or Peers Clough Lane, behind Lumb School over an old bridge, through Pinch Clough, and so through Edgside to Booth Fold, Cowpe and then over Rooley Moor to Rochdale. This route was used by the packhorses to take finished cloth to Rochdale market and also along this route to Clitheroe via Dunnockshaw Moor, Hapton and Whalley people travelled to be married, baptised and buried.



Compston's Cross

After passing through a further stile at the side of a gate and over the water catchment channel for Clough Bottom Reservoir the track continues uphill with a small ravine on either side. As the path flattens out it becomes more clearly defined with a stream in the valley to the left and a wall to the right.

At this point stop and look back at the valley behind with the wide expanses of moorland to the right.

Soon it becomes walled on both sides and Compston's Cross comes into view.

Compston's Cross was erected by Samuel Compston, a local historian and ex Mayor of Rawtenstall, in 1902 at a meeting place of trackways. Nearby the sites of two ancient crosses have been marked with upright stones. These stood at 1,154 and 1,147 feet above sea level and were known as "Higher Cross" and "Lower Cross". These crosses marked part of an old route to Whalley Abbey. Alderman Compston was of the opinion that originally routes from this point went to Preston, Halifax and Pontefract, Whalley and Clitheroe, and Brandwood and Rochdale. There are fine views from this cross of the fells to the north dominated by Pendle Hill.

At the cross pass through the gate and the Rossendale Way turns left on to a green path which follows roughly parallel with a post and wire fence and the remains of a stone wall. The path gradually climbs and there are fine views to the north over the Clowbridge Reservoir.

The Clowbridge Reservoir was constructed between 1855 and 1866 by the Haslingden and Rawtenstall Waterworks Company.

Soon the site of Gambleside comes into view adjacent to the southern corner of the reservoir marked by some isolated trees.

Gambleside was once a thriving hamlet but the land was sterilised by the building of Clowbridge Reservoir. It had a mansion, the home of the Ormerods, but little remains to-day of this building which was erected in Cromwell's time, and had a datestone 1664 now in the

Rossendale Way

sailing club car park. In 1839 the Baptists started to meet in Gambleside and in 1843 the old brewhouse in the village was converted into a chapel. The Baptistry still remains to-day.

At Meadow Head the Rossendale Way passes through an opening in the wall to the left continuing across the moor to a stile at the right-hand end of a substantial waterworks wall.

Meadow Head at just over 1,200 feet above sea level is the highest point on this walk. Pause to enjoy the fine view which is particularly extensive to the south. Note the considerable bend in the valley to the right which is not nearly so evident when travelling by road. Nearby is the site of Hillock Farm and adjacent to the next stile ran the tramway which linked Gambleside Colliery via Swinshaw Colliery to the coal staithe near the junction of Burnley Road and Goodshaw Lane in Crawshawbooth.

Now the path is very green and pleasant leading slightly uphill to a stile at the left of a gate.

About 200 yards to the right a few mounds mark the site of Gambleside Colliery which operated from as early as 1612 until 1936.

The path now crosses diagonally over the corner of a large area of moorland to a stile at the side of a gate leading on to a path in a slight ravine.

Over to the left the site of the disused Green Fold Reservoir is easily picked out. Green Fold Reservoir was completed in 1860 by the Irwell Valley Water Board and remained in operation until the early 1980's when it was drained because of leakage.

After crossing a further stile the Rossendale Way passes through an area of new planting before passing through a narrow gateway to turn right on to Goodshaw Lane,

Here retrace your steps back past Swinshaw Hall and via the stile and steps to the south of the old school to the starting point. **2**

Ramble No 4

From Rawtenstall around Cribden Hill and a shorter Walk around Crashawbooth passing Bonfire Hill Beacon

DISTANCE: Approximately 11 miles - shorter walk approximately 6 miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Seven and a half hours. For the shorter walk four hours should be allowed.

TERRAIN: Much of this path is relatively level being along the upper contours of the Cribden/Hameldon Hill ridge reaching the 1,200 feet contour. Initially there is a long climb from Rawtenstall town centre to the upper slopes of Cribden Hill and another fairly steep, but shorter, climb from Love Clough up Goodshaw Hill. Sections of the route are along old highways and old coal roads, but much of the route is along footpaths.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There are frequent bus services to Rawtenstall from adjoining Lancashire towns and, in addition, from Manchester, Bury and Bolton.

PARKING: There is a car park at the starting point of the walk and there are a number of other car parks in the town centre.

The elevated sections of this walk afford fine views in all directions embracing, on a clear day, the Greater Manchester area, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, Bowland Fells, Pendle Hill and Blackpool Tower. In contrast there are sections along the river valley near Goodshaw Fold.

This walk starts at the car park adjacent to the Weavers' Cottage in Fallbarn Fold, which has been carefully restored by the Rawtenstall Civic Society as their headquarters. **1**

Weavers' Cottage

This cottage, probably built in the late 18th century, is one of Rossendale's finest surviving examples of a "loomshop", which was a half-way house between the small handloom weavers' cottage and the mill. The two top storeys boast fine ranges of stone mullioned windows to allow maximum light for weaving together the fine woollen threads. When the weaving industry became organised in mills the handloom trade went into recession and had largely died out by the 1860's. Until the early 1970's another cottage backed on to the Weaver's Cottage and this was formerly the home of Maggie Allen, Rawtenstall's well-known murderess and one of the last women in England to be executed at Strangeways Jail in 1949 at the age of 42. She was a sad, strange character, who dressed up in men's clothes and wore close cropped hair. Her victim was Mrs Nancy Ellen Chadwick aged 68, who was often dressed shabbily,

Town Trail

Rawtenstall Town Centre
Key to Buildings and Sites of Interest

1 Car Parks
2 Weavers Cottage
3 Greenbank Lodge
4 Worswick Memorial Cricket Ground
5 Baptist Church
6 Police Station
7 Sun Inn
8 Unitarian Church
9 Bank House
10 Jubilee Buildings
11 18th Century Cottages
12 Alder Grange School
13 Newhouses Cottages
14 Old House at Home Inn
15 Springside Methodist Chapel
16 Springside Cottage
17 Higher Mill
18 Market Hall
19 Rams Head Hotel
20 Fire Station
21 Cemetery Gates
22 "Cat Steps"
23 Bishop Blaize Hotel
24 Old Co-operative Building
25 Handloom Weaving Basement
26 Site of Old Fold
27 Lower Mill
28 Holly Mount House
29 Holly Mount School
30 National Westminster Bank
31 Shopping Precinct
32 Midland Bank
33 Old Shops - former Toll Bar
34 St Mary's Church
35 St Mary's School
36 Fine Terraces
37 United Methodist Free Church
38 Rossendale College
39 Site of New Hall Hey House
40 Library
41 Queen's Arms Hotel
42 Shop
43 Packhorse Bridge
44 Longholme Shed
45 Longholme Chapel
46 Wesley Villa
47 Town Hall
48 Crown Hotel
49 Ilex Mill

yet nearly always carried wads of banknotes about, and her body was found late one night near Maggie's home by a group of Rawtenstall Corporation busmen who were returning home. The Bacup Road frontage of the Weavers' Cottage has been refaced by the Civic Society and the takin' in door to the top storey has been restored, together with a further door at first floor level and new takin' in steps to gain access. The lodge on the north side of Bacup Road with fine carved gateposts dated "JAH 1864" formerly served Greenbank House, the former home of the Worswick family, now replaced by modern housing development. The lodge was built by James Henry Ashworth, owner of Hall Carr Mill, who died in 1871 aged 40 years and to whom there is a memorial window in St Mary's Church.

Turn left and walk along Bacup Road towards the town centre.

A plaque in the wall adjacent to the cricket ground marks its presentation to the Rawtenstall Club by the Worswick family in 1958. Ilex Mill was built in 1856 by Peter Whitehead, one of the three manufacturing brothers. The adjoining mill houses have similar cornerstones to those of the mill and the street on to which they front is named after Peter.

Turn right into Kay Street. Note the Baptist Church on the right.

This fine stone building was started in 1901. The Baptist cause in Rawtenstall was started in 1872 by the Rev John Jefferson, who began preaching that year in Holly Mount Schoolroom. In 1876 the first school chapel, which still stands behind the present church and is used as a Sunday School, was built.

Opposite is the new Police Station.

This building would have been much more in keeping, if cream "Fortecrete" blocks had been used rather than white blocks.

At the top of Kay Street, on the left, is the new Sun Inn.

It is named after a former pub which stood at the junction of Lord Street and the Fold, which was pulled down when the construction of the bypass began. It was a meeting place for desperadoes and cutthroats in olden days and was built about 1815, the year of the Battle of Waterloo.

Turn right into Bank Street, noting the new Unitarian Church opposite.

The original Victorian building, dated 1853, was declared unsafe following the construction of St Mary's Way and was closed in 1968. The gateposts and the wrought iron gate belonging to the previous church still remain and the attractive new building, which cost £35,000, was opened in 1971.

On the left is Barclays Bank, formerly known as "Bank House".

It took its name from the street in which it is situated and was for many years the home of Dr Edwards and his successor, Dr Lees. There is an 1830 datestone above the entrance.

On the right a little further on note the weaving windows on the top storey of a row of shops. Beyond, on the left, is Jubilee Buildings.

Jubilee Buildings was put up in 1887 by the owners of the Rams Head Hotel to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Note the carvings adorning the window pillars. Next door is the Free Press Office whose first paper was published in 1883.

Leave Bank Street turning right into Daisy Hill.

The lower right-hand section of this street is one of the earliest parts of Rawtenstall, which could have been built for local mill workers. Alternatively, these properties may have been part of a farm dating from about 1810. There is an 1820 datestone on the back of these buildings which can be seen by walking through a ginnel.

Turn right at the end of Daisy Hill and left into Grange Road.

Note the rare local use of red sandstone as decoration on the row of tall terraced houses to the right. The Alder Grange of last century was a fine house occupied at one time by part of the Whitehead family. It had a tree-lined drive ending with gates in Bank Street.

Town Trail

To most people, to-day's Alder Grange is the school built in 1909, which has now been built anew half mile to the north.

Turn left into Grange Avenue. At the end to the right are Newhouses Cottages.

Newhouses Cottages were built in 1695, although some of the windows on the south front have been altered. Inside the second house is a witch post; a cross marked on the main upright by the hearth to ward off evil influences. There is another witch post at Higher Constablelee and others are known in North Yorkshire. Note the large stone chimney to the west gable and, by the side of the window, the remains of hooks in the wall which reveal that shutters were once hung here in the days before glass came into common use. The drip moulding above the window also helped to keep out the wet.

Turn left into Springfield Road, right into Alder Bank and left on to Newchurch Road.

Opposite is the Old House at Home with its attractive new sign painted by Donna Hartley, wife of the Borough Director of Rossendale. The right-hand section of the building, formerly cottages, with its stone flag roof is probably older than the left. Note the ornate iron rails to the window ledges. Bar snacks and meals are available here.

On the right, beyond a setted road, is the old Springside Methodist Chapel.

Newhouses Cottages - before alteration

This building is now used for removals and heated storage.

On the left is Springside Cottage.

It was at one time two dwellings which were built in 1795. In the right-hand house lived a man called John Willie Booth. An amateur dentist, he extracted teeth without using anaesthetic - while his wife held the patient down by his ears! His nick-name "Sixpence-a-pull" referred to the charge he made for his service. Springside Cottage was later probably lived in by the manager of the old Higher Mill. Higher Mill, a cotton mill which dated from 1824, dominated both sides of Millgate until 1967 when the lower section of the factory, which stood on the site of the new Day Care Centre, was demolished. The old sluice gates for the mill can still be seen in Waingate Stream on the north side of Newchurch Road. Shortly after Higher Mill was opened its power looms were wrecked in the famous riots of 1825.

Beyond on the right is Rawtenstall market.

The land on which the market stands is known as "Tup Meadow". A market has been here since 1888. The first covered market was opened in 1906 and destroyed by fire in 1946.

Adjoining the market is the Rams Head Hotel.

The Rams Head known locally as "The Tup's Head" probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century. The fine clock which has Roman numerals, was made by J Greaves of Rawtenstall showing that clockmaking was once a local art. Bar snacks and meals are available here.

Cross over the Limy Water and turn right on to Burnley Road.

This section of road used to be called King Street.

Opposite is the Bishop Blaize Hotel, with some little shops built into the hillside beyond.

This building, which has some nice stone carving, takes its name from the patron saint of the Woolcombers, who was a Bishop in Asia Minor in the 4th century. Woolcombing was a very

Town Trail

common industry in Rossendale during the first quarter of the 19th century and the festival in honour of their patron was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony in these parts. Bar snacks and meals are available at the Bishop Blaize Hotel.

On the right is the fire station.

This building, which has the old Rawtenstall Coat of Arms above its doors, was built in 1897, ten years after the town's fire brigade was formed.

Beyond is the cemetery.

This was planned in 1876 by the old Rawtenstall Burial Board. The old emblem of the burial board has been incorporated into the stonework of the new building. Mr Clark planned and laid out the walks, roads and ornamental entrance park which make the cemetery such an attractive place to-day. Of particular interest are the fine gateposts which flank the entrance.

Opposite are the Star Works operated by Ashworth & Hoyle, ladies footwear manufacturers.

Part of the Star Works complex was at one time used as a technical college and contains a fine staircase inserted at that time.

Leave Burnley Road turning left into Taylor Street to climb the "cat steps".

This is a piece of Rossendale from which there is a splendid view of the surrounding area. At the top of the steps Corn Mill Lane branches off to the left. It takes its name from an old corn mill which used to operate on the site of the present Star Works.

Proceed ahead along Greenfield Street turning left into Whittle Street.

This is very characteristic of a 19th century north-east Lancashire industrial housing area.

2 Turn right on to Haslingden Old Road following it uphill and then turning right on to a track just before a terrace of houses, with a footpath sign to Cribden Summit. Cross a stile adjacent to a gate.

The path is waymarked by the symbol:

Over to the left is Crest Moor Children's Home.

The grassy track passes under some small trees and turns sharply to the right. Instead cross the stile ahead and slightly to the left. Follow the path across the field along the bottom of an embankment to two lodges.

These are known as "Twin Lodges" and originally served Lower Mill.

At the far side of this field cross another stile and follow uphill to the left along a track with fences on either side soon passing over a stile in a stone wall. The path continues uphill on the right-hand side of a small ravine past a radio mast. A further stile gives access on to a more clearly defined path.

To the left is the site of Higher Hazel Head.

Still continuing on the right-hand side of the small ravine, the path soon turns almost back on itself climbing upwards round the shoulder of the hill. Pause here and look at the fine view behind and up the valley to the north.

Beyond Twin Lodges is Rawtenstall town centre and slightly to the right the mass of Cowpe Lowe. Up the valley to the north is Crawshawbooth dominated by its fine Parish Church.

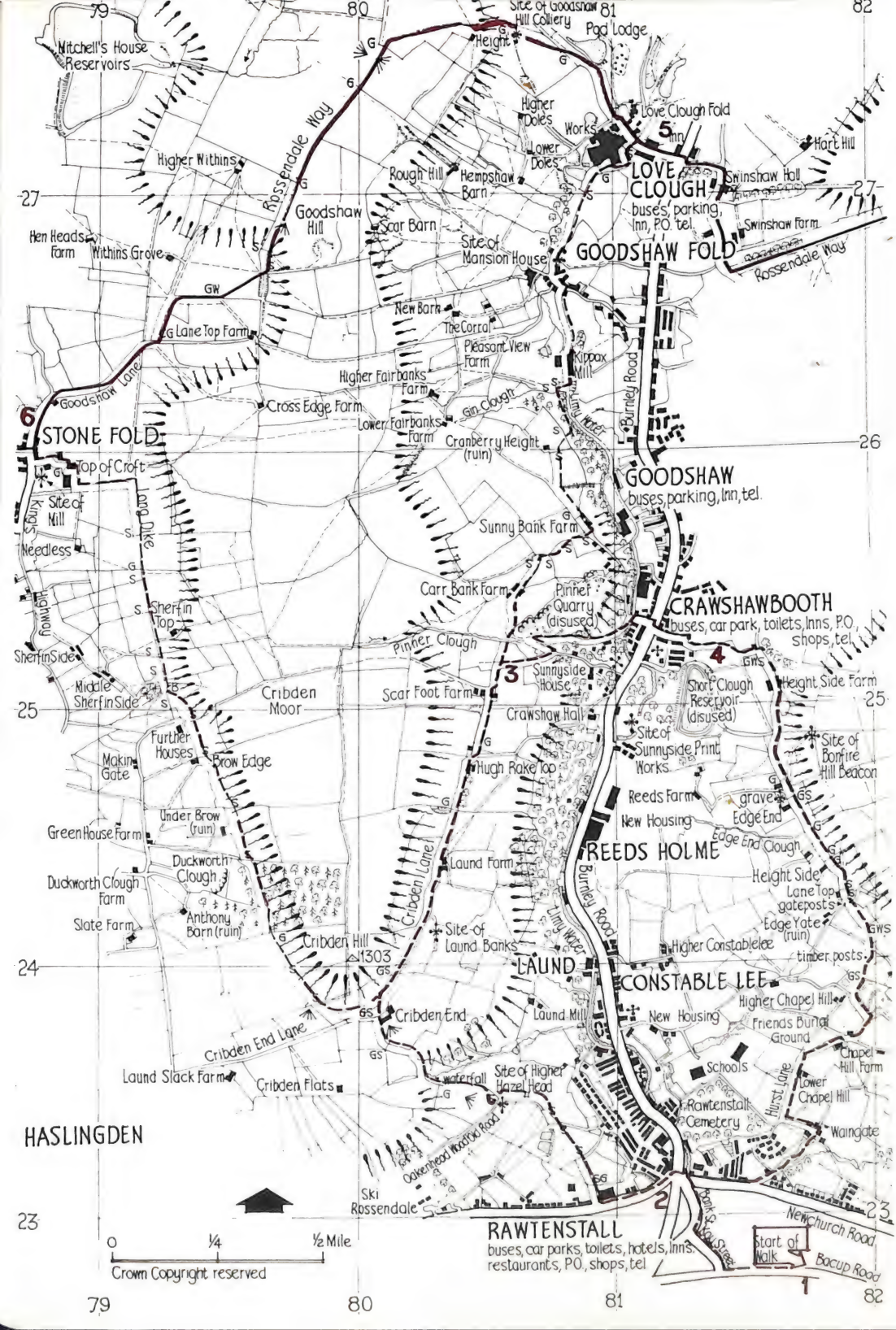
The path now follows along the edge of the attractive Cribden Clough which falls away to the right. Ahead the path leading to Cribden End is now clearly visible and after crossing over two stiles adjacent to gates and proceeding along a walled lane this farm is soon reached.

Cribden End backed by the summit of Cribden itself, probably dates from the 18th century.

Cross the farmyard to a stile at the right of a gate. Proceed along a grassy track which gradually climbs up to a white post. Pause here and look back at the fine view to the south.

On a clear day Greater Manchester is visible and nearer the lower Rossendale Valley dominated on the right by Holcombe Moor and the Peel monument. To the left Rawtenstall now appears far down in the valley below.

Proceed ahead soon crossing a stile to the right of a gate then taking the centre of three green tracks.


79
80
81
82
Nitchell's House Reservoirs
Site of Goodshaw Hill Colliery
Pad Lodge
Height
Higher Doles
Lower Doles
Works
Love Clough Fold
5
Inn
Hart Hill
LOVE CLOUGH
buses, parking, Inn, P.O. tel.
Swinshaw Hall
Swinshaw Farm
Rossendale Way
Higher Withins
Rough Hill
Hempshaw Barn
Goodshaw Hill
Scar Barn
Hen Heads Farm
Withins Grove
Site of Mansion House
GOODSHAW FOLD
GW
New Barn
The Corra
Lane Top Farm
Pleasant View Farm
Kippax Mill
Higher Fairbanks Farm
Goodshaw Lane
Cross Edge Farm
Sin Clough
Lower Fairbanks Farm
Cranberry Height (ruin)
Burnley Road
6
STONE FOLD
Top of Croft
Site of Mill
Long Dike
Needless
GOODSHAW
buses, parking, Inn, tel.
Sunny Bank Farm
Carr Bank Farm
Pinnel Quarry (disused)
Sherfin Top
Sherfin Side
Pinner Clough
CRAWSHAWBOOTH
buses, car park, toilets, Inns, P.O., shops, tel.
4
3
Sunnyside House
Middle Sherfin Side
Cribden Moor
Scar Foot Farm
Short Clough Reservoir (disused)
Height Side Farm
25
Crawshaw Hall
Site of Sunnyside Print Works
Site of Bonfire Hill Beacon
Further Houses
Brow Edge
Makin Gate
Hugh Rake Top
Reeds Farm
grave
Edge End
New Housing
Under Brow (ruin)
Green House Farm
REEDS HOLME
Edge End Clough
Duckworth Clough
Duckworth Clough Farm
Laund Farm
Height Side
Lane Top gateposts
Slate Farm
Anthony Barn (ruin)
Cribden Hill 1303
Site of Laund Banks
Edge Yate (ruin)
Higher Constablelee
timber posts
24
LAUND
CONSTABLE LEE
Higher Chapel Hill
Cribden End
Laund Mill
New Housing
Friends Burial Ground
Cribden End Lane
Laund Stack Farm
Cribden Flats
waterfall
Site of Higher Hazel Head
Schools
Chapel Hill Farm
Hurst Lane
Lower Chapel Hill
Rawtenstall Cemetery
Waingate
HASLINGDEN
Oakenhead Wood
Oakenhead Road
Ski Rossendale
Rawtenstall Golf Links
23
New Church Road
RAWTENSTALL
buses, car parks, toilets, hotels, Inns, restaurants, P.O., shops, tel
Start of Walk
Bacup Road
1
0
¼
½ Mile
Crown Copyright reserved

Below the track to the right the site of Laund Banks can be picked out. In the valley below is the old Laund Mill. Erected in 1810 this is an early example of a purpose built mill powered by water. It possesses its original mullioned windows and steps to an arched doorway and is currently used by John Leach and Sons.

Soon Laund farm comes into view and the track, known as "Cribden Lane", becomes walled on both sides.

Laund farm dates back at least to the 18th century and on the north elevation has some three light "stepped mullioned windows".

Hugh Rake Top

The woods of Crawshaw Hall soon come into view to the right and after passing through a gate Hugh Rake Top is reached.

Hugh Rake Top has a datestone "HIM 1732" over the entrance and is one of the best remaining examples in Rossendale of a Pennine farmhouse with a two storey projecting porch.

Continue along the walled Cribden Lane which is now roughly surfaced, passing through a gate to Scar Foot Farm.

Built in 1854 Scar Foot has the initials "JM & TB" on the datestone standing for John Marshall and Thomas Brooks of Crawshaw Hall. The original stone barn has been extended covering up the carvings of a cow, a pig, a horse and a man dated 1850. A recently built barn archway was originally at Whitehead's Lower Mill in Rawtenstall.

Beyond Scar Foot Cribden Lane soon turns right into Pinner Lane. The main path continues straight ahead but first an alternative shorter return route via Crawshawbooth is described.

Turn right into Pinner Lane then left and right again on the clearly defined tracks to quickly descend into Crawshawbooth soon passing a green track on the left leading into the disused Pinner Quarry. **3**

Pinner Quarry operated between 1840 and the 1930's. Much of the stone produced was mined and it is the most convenient quarry in Rossendale to look at to-day where it is possible to see how the stone was mined.

The track leading off up the hill to the left, adjacent to the bridge crossing the Limy Water into Crawshawbooth, leads up to the Rossendale Pets Memorial Garden.

This Memorial Garden was opened by Martin Dobson, the Captain of Burnley Football Club England under 23 International in 1971. Adjacent to this road formerly stood a mill chimney serving a mill on the east of the Limy Water and the chimney flue can still be seen spanning the river.

Cross over the bridge leading into Co-operation Street. On the left is the Friends' Meeting House and on the right an old inn known as "The Masons".

The Friends' Meeting House was built in 1715 and enlarged in 1736 being one of the first Quaker Meeting Houses to be built in Lancashire, at a cost of £60. Rossendale Quakers had been meeting in private houses for rather more than sixty years before that date; for most of that time their meetings had been illegal. In 1689, however, Quakers, together with other Non-conformists, were granted toleration and allowed to licence meeting houses. Henry Birtwistle of Crawshawbooth and Nathan Heyworth, of Haslingden, both licenced their houses as meeting places for Rossendale Quakers. These houses served until 1715, when after almost twenty years of uninterrupted toleration the Quakers felt they could safely build and enjoy the use of a real meeting house.

The Friends' Meeting House

Turn right into Back Lord Street by the side of "The Masons". Note the properties on the left Nos 5 and 3 Lord Street.

These cottages have weaving windows at the front and the rear at second floor level and in the adjoining property there is a dove cote at the top on the rear.

Continue along Kershaw Street past the new residential properties and through a small pedestrian area on to Burnley Road.

This road formerly the Rawtenstall/Crawshawbooth turnpike road was constructed in 1795. Opposite is the Crawshawbooth Wesleyan Chapel which was built in 1867 to seat 1,040 people at a cost of £6,000. It closed some years ago, services now being held in the former school to the rear. The house adjacent to Forest Bank Road, namely No 567, was for many years used as the local Police Station.

Turn right, crossing Rake Foot Bridge taking the footpath off to the right through the grounds of St John's Church.

St John's Church, built in the Perpendicular Style to the designs of Austin and Paley between 1890 and 1892, owes its great size to the generosity of the Brooks family and could well be described as "Rossendale's Cathedral". Dr Temple, when Archbishop of York, dedicated some memorials in this church in 1935.

Take the footpath from the south side of the church crossing a footbridge over Pinner Lane, leading into the grounds of Sunnyside, now the Manchester Diocesan Conference House. On the right is the new vicarage which was built in the late 1970's.

Sunnyside is a fascinating building which probably dates largely from the 18th century with some interesting Jacobean ceilings said to have come from Whalley Abbey. There is also some interesting timber work including a Perpendicular screen, no doubt from a church. On the south elevation is a white sundial dated 1712 with the inscription "So passeth life away". There is a fine lead water butt dated 1693 and a lead fall pipe and similar matching fall pipes on the extension dated 1965. The old timber stocks, designed for three malefactors, which formerly stood in the grounds have now gone. They had the initials "JB 1671" and "RP 1787". A member of the Brooks family, who lived here, was an enthusiastic collector of old dated objects which he set out in and around his home.

Follow the main drive down to Burnley Road turning right. In a few yards the lodge and gates to Crawshaw Hall will be seen.

Crawshaw Hall was built by the Brooks family in 1831-3. The Brooks family came from Whalley. Mr Thomas Brooks was High Sheriff of Lancashire and was created Baronet in 1891 and the same year raised to the Peerage under the title "Baron Crawshaw of Crawshawbooth". He was born in 1823 and became the first master of the Rossendale Hunt in about 1860. Crawshaw Hall was the setting for many Hunt Balls and was lived in by the family until 1975. On the opposite side of Burnley Road stood Sunnyside Print Works which originally belonged to the Brooks family and closed down in 1936. A little further south is Rush Bed Works belonging to J B Broadley where the foundation stone to the new extension was laid in 1973 by the Rt Hon Edward Heath, when he was Prime Minister.

Proceed in a northerly direction back towards the village centre.

On the open ground opposite St John's Church once stood a mansion house dating from the 18th century. Beyond

Village Trail

Crawshawbooth Village Centre
Key to Buildings and Sites of Interest

1. Pinner Quarry
2. Pinner Cottage
3. Friends' Meeting House
4. Chimney - demolished
5. Chimney Flue
6. The Masons Inn
7. Handloom Weavers' Cottages
8. Old Police Station
9. Site of 18th Century Mansion House
10. St. John's Church
11. Sunnyside House
12. Crawshaw Hall
13. Site of Sunnyside Print Works
14. Rakefoot Methodist Church
15. Black Dog Hotel
16. Car Park
17. Former National Westminster Bank
18. Site of Old Mansion House
19. Old Post Office Street Buildings
20. Site of Toll House
21. Waltham Place
22. Croft House
23. White Bull
24. Holmefield House
25. Site of Dungeon
26. Grave in Garden
27. Orchard Terrace

T. Public Toilets

0 100 500 Feet

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on the right-hand side, behind a car park, is the Black Dog, which originally belonged to Baxter's Glen Top Brewery, where bar snacks and meals are available. Opposite is the former National Westminster Bank and the shops beyond stand on the site of the old mansion house dated 1610, which was demolished about 1880. The back of the house faced Burnley Road and its large garden was enclosed by a wall which extended up to the grounds of the Friends Meeting House. On the right Post Office Street contains some old buildings, especially those backing on to the main road which date largely from the 18th century. On the left, adjacent to Binns Street, is the site of the Toll House. The property to the north of Binns Street, No 586 Burnley Road, known as "Waltham Place", is possibly the oldest building fronting on to Burnley Road. The gable end to Binns Street appears to have been raised, possibly in the 18th century, to form a loomshop. It also has a slightly projecting plinth at the bottom which could indicate that the building dates from the 17th century. Beyond are Croft House, a pleasant building, Holmefield House, a typical millowner's house of the mid 19th century and the White Bull which has had a chequered history since it ceased to be a public house about 1950.

Turn right into the narrow Bonfire Hill Road.

On the left, immediately behind the properties fronting on to the main road in a field known as "The Parrock", originally stood the Crawshawbooth dungeon which was built about 1803. On the right, set back, are the two cottages known as "Orchard Terrace" which have been nicely restored to form one dwelling. In the garden is a grave which originally stood on four pillars and reads as follows - with spelling mistakes:

"Hear was intered the Bodey of James Haworth of this place who departed this life 2th Jenuary 1772 Aged 63."

This grave is of an ancestor of James Haworth, a Quaker, who lived in the old mansion house shortly before it was demolished.

Proceed uphill along Bonfire Hill Road turning right into Clarence Street.

At the end of the road, where Hill Street joins, continue ahead on a lane which soon becomes a narrow walled path bearing round to the left. **4**

The large stone detached property to the right was formerly St John's vicarage.

The path becomes flagged with a wall on the left and a post and wire fence

Old Mansion House, Crawshawbooth - now demolished

on the right. At the end of the post and wire fence the path strikes away to the right across a meadow making for some stone walls.

To the right the Short Clough Reservoir which formerly supplied the Sunnyside Print Works, now with its much reduced water level, is visible.

Once the stone walls are reached the path becomes a clearly defined track, known as Kit Lime Gate, passing some ruins on the left then through a gateway with a stile to the right, before turning right on to Height Side Lane. Pause here and look back at the fine view.

Crawshaw Hall, Sunnyside and St John's Church can be seen across the valley, and to the right, on the hillside in front of Sunnybank Farm, the Rossendale Pets Memorial Garden.

The lane is reasonably surfaced for a farm road and soon passes between the buildings of Height Side Farm. After passing through the next gate, a gate on the left gives access on to a track which leads up to the site of the former Bonfire Hill Beacon.

This track passes close by a "T" wall and the Beacon itself was located near the top left-hand corner of this field which commanded extensive views of the valley as a whole.

To the right is the derelict Edge End Farm with its datestone "HG & A 1816" built by the Haworth family, adjacent to Edge End Lane which strikes off downhill. In an area of ground beyond is a pillared tombstone.

It is the grave of Thomas Haworth who died in 1800, it is thought as a result of falling from his horse or over balancing whilst seated on a gate behind the farm. Part of the verse says:

"Reflect when thou my grave dost see
The next that's made may be for thee".

Height Side Lane passes through a stile adjacent to a gate then proceeds past Edge End Farm, which has been much restored in recent times and has a datestone "HGA 1709". A further gate is soon reached and down the hill to the right is another farmhouse which has been carefully restored. Continuing along the lane it is gated before and after Height Side, with its faint sundial, becoming a walled grassy track which climbs up slightly to Lane Top, where after passing over two stiles a junction of paths is encountered. Ignore the obvious path to the right down the ruins of Edge Yate and continue ahead through the gateposts along the top side of a high stone wall. A gateway is soon reached with a stile to the left. Take the well defined track downhill towards two freestanding timber posts in the second field. The path continues to a gate and stile at the far side of the field and a further stile to give access on to a track turning right. Higher Chapel Hill is close by to the right.

Higher Chapel Hill has evidence of 17th century mullioned windows.

At the first junction bear right and then right again at Chapel Hill cottages.

These cottages have the initials "TW" on a stone.

On the left is the Friends' burial ground.

This burial ground, according to a stone, dates from 1663 when Richard Ratcliffe gave the land, and the wall surrounding it was rebuilt in 1817. Beyond is Chapel Hill Farm which is now run as the Chapel Hill Riding and Saddlery Centre.

The farm road soon bears left into Hurst Lane past Lower Chapel Hill.

Lower Chapel Hill dates from the 17th century and has many interesting external features.

Take the macadamed road off on the left leading to the hamlet of Waingate.

The cottages and farmhouse have recently been restored and two farm buildings have been attractively converted into dwellings. Waingate Farm has a datestone over the door "TLE 1755" and a drainpipe head with a similar date and initials. They refer to Lawrence & Elizabeth Taylor.

Turn right on to Waingate Lane and right again on to Newchurch Road.

For the remainder of the Town Trail back to the starting point refer to the Town Trail section at the end of the main walk.

Alternative Route

Waingate Cottages

3 Leaving Cribden Lane, where it turns sharp right into Pinner Lane, continue straight ahead along a footpath with a wall to the left, crossing a small stream making for Carr Bank Farm.

At Carr Bank the rather attractive 18th century farmhouse, now used as a farm building, has been replaced by a new bungalow.

The path continues between the farm buildings and then follows alongside a wall to the right. Soon there are two gates ahead. Take the stile over the wall to the right before the first gate. The path descends alongside a wall, over a stile, and then turning left on to a track leading past Sunny Bank Farm.

A few yards to the right, at this point, is the Rossendale Pets Memorial Garden. This memorial garden was opened by Martin Dobson, the Captain of Burnley Football Club England under 23 International in 1971. All kinds of pets are remembered here with memorial stones. Pets buried include dogs, cats, budgerigars, monkeys, rabbits, a horse, a pony and even a cow. The statue at the entrance to the memorial garden was presented by Miss Brooks at the time the gardens were started and in 1979 the Rossendale Pets Crematorium was opened by Robert Jenkins, a Veterinary Surgeon.

A gate leads into an open field where the track is fairly well defined keeping alongside a wall to the left. Adjacent to a gateway the path turns right running in front of a wall to the ruins of Cranberry Height, then down alongside a wall to a stile leading into the woods.

The path downhill through the woods is easy to follow emerging at a further stile at the northern end of the plantation in Gin Clough.

Gin Clough is so named because a "gin" or dyeing house stood here for many years.

Turn right passing over a further stile and then left on to Stoneholme Road at Kippax Mill.

Kippax Mill was operating in the mid 19th century and at that time was known as "Hargreaves Bleaching Mill".

Goodshaw Fold village is soon reached.

Goodshaw Fold was designated a Conservation Area by Rossendale Borough Council in the mid 1970's. It was originally a village with about 65 houses and three mills known as "Top, Middle and Bottom factories". Only one mill remains to-day used for the production of eggs. The two structures of note are the Rehoboth Particular (or strict) Baptist Chapel dated 1852 built by the School of Baptists known as "Calvanists", and the well known as the "Spewing Duck". This well has an inscription which reads:

"Erected by subscription by the inhabitants and the Exors of the late John Hargreaves Esq. AD 1855. Renovated by the villagers and public subscription, 1978".

Note the remains of the draught board cut into the right-hand parapet of the bridge over the Limy Water where the elderly residents played draughts many years ago. A restored dwelling in the middle of the village has a datestone "RPLH 1659" and was originally the residence of Col. Hargreaves.

Turn right behind Spring Terrace on to Love Clough Road.

The slightly raised area of land on the right, opposite the bungalow, marks the site of the Goodshaw Fold Mansion House, which was demolished in the 1970's.

Beyond the bungalow pass to the left of a barn, with a cornerstone dated "1618 GH", on to a clearly defined track which runs along the right-hand side of a pleasant little valley. Soon the

The Spewing Duck

buildings of Love Clough Print Works come into view. Cross a stile, pass through a kissing gate and then over a further stile following round the perimeter of the works to the main entrance on Commercial Street where the Rossendale Way is joined.

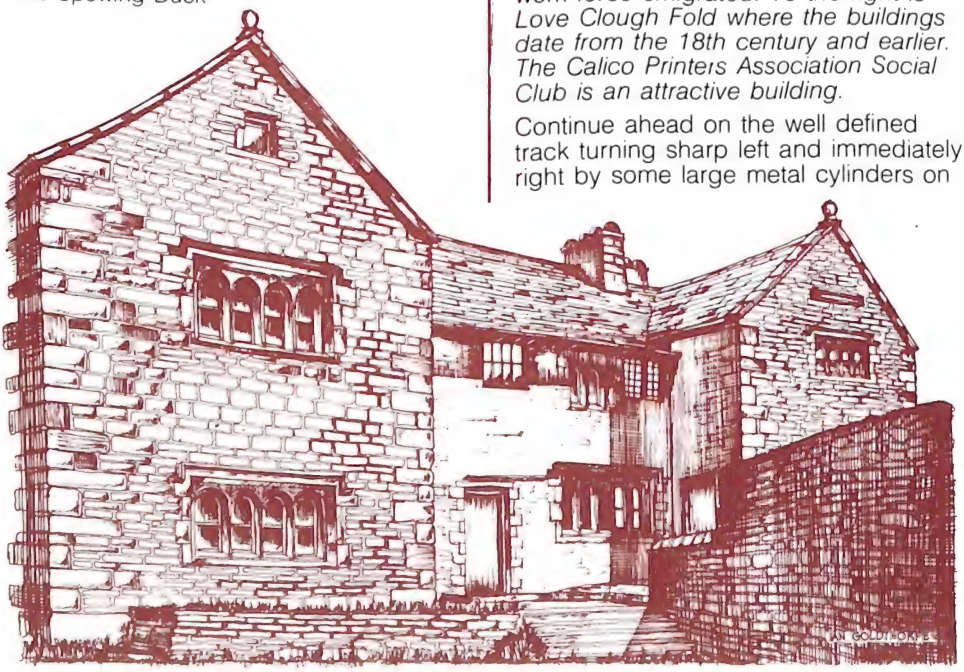
Nearby on Burnley Road is the Huntsman Inn, formerly known as the Glory Inn, where bar snacks and meals are available.

Turn left on to the Rossendale Way crossing the Limy Water into the Print Works yard.

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol:

The Love Clough Print Works were at one time run by Messrs Cooke & Unsworth and during the Corn Law days the firm was at a very low ebb, many families moving away, some going to America. In 1906 the works suffered a fire which did £100,000 worth of damage and again more of the work force emigrated. To the right is Love Clough Fold where the buildings date from the 18th century and earlier. The Calico Printers Association Social Club is an attractive building.

Continue ahead on the well defined track turning sharp left and immediately right by some large metal cylinders on



Goodshaw Fold Mansion House - now demolished

elevated ground. The Rossendale Way climbs and to the right a reservoir comes into view. Abreast at the top of this reservoir leave the track via a gate on the left proceeding up a slightly defined track heading for a gate in the top right-hand corner.

Near this gate is the site of Goodshaw Hill Colliery which operated between 1820 and 1934. To the left is the line of a tramway which served the colliery.

The path follows round the northern end of Height. The Rossendale Way then climbs up over the moorland keeping close to the corners of a series of dilapidated walls to the left. It then turns left on to a track running along the ridge from the ruins of Townsend Close to the north. Pause here and look at the extensive view to the east and to the west over Accrington and Blackburn. Pass through a gate continuing ahead in a southerly direction along a well defined track with a stone wall to the left.

To the right is a fenced off shaft connected with Goodshaw Hill Colliery.

Mitchell's House Reservoirs come into view to the right.

These reservoirs were built between 1855 and 1876 by the Calder Water Board to serve Accrington. They were placed on the Haslingden side of the boundary and thus became Haslingden's largest ratepayer.

Pass through a further gate, continuing ahead with a wall to the right.

To the left on the moor are a number of shafts connected with Goodshaw Hill Colliery.

Soon the path begins to descend and there are fine views ahead of the West Pennine Moors and Musbury Tor. Where the paths divide take the right-hand path heading towards Lane Top Farm, following along the right-hand side of a small ravine and crossing a stile. Where a stone wall crosses the path turn right alongside the wall crossing a stile. This section of the path can be wet at times. Turn right on to the farm road leading from Lane Top Farm where there are two timber gateposts and a gate and a stile. At the junction turn left soon crossing a cattle grid to turn right on to Goodshaw Lane. The metalled road soon leads into Stone Fold, joining the ancient King's Highway at the former pump house building outside the village. The Rossendale Way turns off to the right to Lower Stone Fold.

Proceed ahead along the King's Highway.

Wesley once passed through Stone Fold along the King's Highway and said

C.P.A. Social Club, Love Clough Fold

he would never come again since the roads were so rough. Stone Fold is an old village. On the right is a fine three-storey 18th century house with an interesting inscription over the door "John & A Cottam 1767 Go in peace and sin no more", and a drainpipe head with a dove and olive branch. Beyond is a cottage that was, until about 30 years ago, the George & Dragon Inn. Further on at right angles to the road, facing south, the Manor House has an interesting datestone "CHA 1755". It was for many years occupied by the owner of the mill which stood opposite. Adjoining is a barn which has recently been converted to form an attractive dwelling house. On the left the red brick cottages are all that remains of the former cotton mill complex which was operating in the mid 19th century.

Turn left at the end of the red brick terrace past two farm bungalows and then to the south of the former Top of Croft farmhouse and right alongside a new farm building.

The Top of Croft farmhouse has a datestone "A-A Cottam 1835"

Just beyond the farm building the track turns sharp left soon passing under some power lines and then turning off to the right along a grassy footpath behind a wall.

Nearby is Long Dike which may be an ancient boundary.

The path continues ahead crossing a series of stiles. Sherfin Top comes into view to the left and soon Haslingden Parish Church appears ahead. At Sherfin Clough cross a footbridge at the head of the plantation and follow the wall up out of the Clough soon crossing a stile on the left. Strike off to the right to the corner of a wall which leads on to a track into Further Houses farmyard The path, which can be wet at times follows along the top of a small retaining wall behind the farmyard soon crossing a stile behind Brow Edge. A well defined track is now joined climbing uphill to the left of a wall. In a few yards leave this well defined track to follow along a footpath fairly close to the wall and roughly along the line of a series of electricity poles. To the right are the ruins of Under Brow. The path continues ahead towards a woodland. Cross the stile to the right of a gate and proceed through the developing woodland along a path with fencing on either side.

To the right is Duckworth Clough, a County Council landfill site.

At the end of the woodland pass through a gate continuing ahead across the moorland slightly uphill to a stile. The path continues slightly uphill along the top of a small retaining wall heading to the left of Cribden Flats which can be seen ahead. Pass through a further stile and proceed with a wall to the right. Pause and look at the fine panoramic view.

The Rossendale Valley, Cowpe Lowe and Scout Moor can be seen on a clear day, with the lower Irwell Valley leading to Bury and Manchester.

The path soon becomes very well defined as it follows round the shoulder of Cribden and Rawtenstall comes into view far below. The white post is soon reached again, where the same path is followed back on to Haslingden Old Road and thence downhill to its junction with St Mary's Way at the Bishop Blaize Hotel.

Cross St Mary's Way into Newchurch Road turning right into Bank Street.

Note the Solicitor's office on the right-hand side which has been nicely restored.

The tall building on the right is the old Co-operative Building.

This building has had a chequered history, starting life as the "Red Co-op", one of the independent Co-operative Societies in Rawtenstall and later becoming a bonded warehouse, which explains the barred windows on the ground floor. At one time lantern slides were shown in the top room. Dated 1869 the building, which has much of note, is little appreciated by the local people. It has a small circular window at the top and fine arched windows with decorated pillars. The Cities and Towns named along the top of the building denote the places where

Phipps, Cotton Textile Manufacturers, once had their branches. Phipps used the hall as a warehouse for a short time and supplied cotton linings to the shoe industry.

The next little building is a baker's shop.

This is the only brick building in Bank Street and is disguised with stone paint. It has basement mullioned windows indicating that it was used for cotton handloom weaving.

Turn off Bank Street into Ormerod Street. Nearby in Bank Street is "Take 5", open week-days and renouned for its reasonably priced home cooking.

The buildings on the right, with their ginnels and stone balconies, have now been demolished but the rear of the properties fronting on to Bank Street gives some idea of what the area was originally like.

Continue along the footpath behind the Unitarian Church.

Below, where St Mary's Way now runs, stood Old Fold, one of the most interesting places in the town; although it was the roughest and poorest too. Opposite is what remains of Lower Mill, started in 1840 by the Whitehead brothers, David, Peter and Thomas. They were amongst the early Rossendale manufacturing pioneers, beginning what proved to be a very successful and lucrative partnership in 1815. In that year they took over a mill at Balladen and before the next decade was out they had amassed enough capital and business experience to build Higher Mill, off Newchurch Road. Lower Mill was burnt down in 1870 and the present building erected in its place the following year. Demolition of the multi-storey sections of the mill started at the beginning of the 1980's. These three brothers and their families were strong pillars of local Victorian society and their impact on Rossendale was long lasting. Behind the mill, screened by trees, is Holly Mount House. Holly Mount House was built by the Whitehead Brothers as three units in 1835 for their own use. Beyond, overlooking a little garden, is the clock

Tower of Holly Mount School

tower of Holly Mount School which the Whitehead brothers built in 1839 for the education of the children of their employees. The school building later became the Astoria Dance Hall and was demolished to make way for St Mary's Way. The original datestone has been placed in the garden.

A flight of steps leads into a car park and thence by the side of the National Westminster Bank turning right into Bank Street.

The National Westminster Bank is one of Rawtenstall's most ornate Victorian buildings and typifies the solid grandeur of most bank architecture; no doubt intended to give customers a feeling of wealth and security. Opposite is The Centre, a shopping precinct, which is a reasonable design bearing in mind the time that it was built. Beyond, on the left, is the Midland Bank which, although small for a bank building, is no less solid and has a very attractive stone balustrade along the first floor. The entrance is worthy of study, having a fine door with a lovely arched window above it.

Town Trail

Continue down Bank Street to the pedestrian crossing.

Pause to look at the old shops on the left. The low doorways emphasise how much taller people are, compared with only a century ago. Herbal Health is the only one of its kind left in the North West. Remedies are available for almost every kind of ailment. This shop was originally the Rawtenstall Toll Bar.

Cross the dual carriageway and walk along Church Pad past St Mary's Church.

St Mary's Church is set amid trees and Memorial Gardens known locally as "Sparrow Park". It dates from 1836 and owes its existence largely to cotton and a boom in the population which led to the need for a new church nearer at hand than the churches at Haslingden, Goodshaw and Newchurch. The church was greatly remodelled in the 1880's by its third Vicar, the Rev James Norris, when the tower was transferred to the south-west side.

Continue up Henry Street past St Mary's School.

St Mary's School was built in 1883.

Turn left into Schofield Road.

The terraces on each side, with their steeply raking eaves, are probably one of the most spectacular examples of 19th century terraces built up a steep hillside in the whole of north-east Lancashire. The terrace on the right has a carved stone sign "Beehive Cottages".

Just before the main road turn right into a cobbled back street which gives access to the secluded group of houses known as "Gordon Street".

This back street gives a very good idea of highway surfacing in 19th century Lancashire.

Turn left on to Oakley Road, at the side of the United Methodist Free Church.

This building, which was commenced in 1856, is one of the town's most impressive pieces of architecture and presents an imposing sight to visitors even though its front steps were removed in 1936 as part of a road-widening scheme. David Whitehead laid the foundation stone, having left the Longholme Wesleyan Church in 1849. The Whitehead brothers were disenchanted with growing centralisation within the Wesleyan cause. It is possible, also, that they were afraid of losing their dominant position at Longholme Methodist. Its history as a church was comparatively short, the school to the rear now housing the Magistrates' Court and the former church serving as the headquarters of the Rawtenstall Old Age Pensioners Association. Opposite this old chapel stands the Rossendale College opened in 1956. It is an uninteresting building which has been improved by recent alterations and stands on the site of Captain Fold, an old part of the town.

Turn left on to Haslingden Road.

The large traffic island to the right was built in the 1960's when the Edenfield bypass was constructed. Until these roadworks were implemented the derelict New Hall Hey House stood near the western end of the site occupied by the traffic island. This hall was probably built in Oliver Cromwell's time, though little is known of its early history. It was the home of the Nuttall family in the 17th century.

Beyond, on the left, is the library.

This fine building was paid for by the famous multi-millionaire, Mr Andrew Carnegie, who himself officially opened the building in 1907. This distinguished building was the result of an architectural competition and the concept was later copied by many larger towns.

Pass under the subway, then turn right into Bacup Road.

Opposite is the Queen's Arms Hotel, a building which probably dates from the early part of the 19th century and was the only public house in the town which had stabling facilities when the Turnpike Acts came in. It also served in 1874 as the initial meeting place of the St Annes-on-the-Sea Land and Building Company.

The old macadamed lane which crosses the route running between the

Town Trail

backs of the shops and the graveyard and known as "Longholme Road" to the right, is the route of the old road from Bury to Rawtenstall.

At the end of Longholme Road is the Packhorse Bridge which probably dates from the 18th century, or earlier, carrying the old road across the river at this point. To the left on Longholme Road is the Longholme Shed, where the clatter of looms could be heard until spinning finally ceased in 1984.

Continue ahead along Bacup Road.

On the left is the stately Longholme Chapel built in 1842 at a cost of £7,000, with seating capacity at that time for 1,300 people. The Whitehead brothers contributed towards the cost of this building. Beyond is a former manse used as offices bearing the signs "Wesley Villa" and "EMS 1867" for Ebenezer Missionary Sugden. Next on the left is the Town Hall which, although quite an extensive building to-day, started off in quite a small way. Originally, only the section on the corner of Lord Street was standing, being a share exchange and social club built by a limited liability company. It was then taken over by the Local Authority in 1890, in preparation for the Incorporation of the Borough of Rawtenstall in 1891. There were plans at one time to build a new Town Hall and some fine assembly rooms next to the library, but instead the old club building was extended in exactly the same style of architecture to join up with the old tram offices. A modern extension behind the Town Hall was opened in 1965. Beyond on the left is the Crown Hotel, which is a good example of Victorian architecture, where bar snacks and meals are available.

Continuing along Bacup Road the starting point is soon reached.

Ramble No 5

From Haslingden around Stone Fold and Rising Bridge

DISTANCE: Approximately six miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Four hours.

TERRAIN: The route described is for the most part along elevated paths or tracks with fine views of Haslingden. Apart from the initial climb up on to the moors from the town centre the route is relatively level reaching the 1000 ft. contour. Over half of the walk is along clearly defined tracks or little used roads.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There are frequent bus services to Haslingden from Rawtenstall and adjoining Lancashire towns. The Manchester/Clitheroe bus service also passes through Haslingden.

PARKING: There are a number of car parks in the town centre adjacent to the start of this walk.

Particular features of this walk are the many views over the town which are obtained and the many sections of attractive countryside, so unexpected so near to the town itself.

1 This walk starts at the traffic lights at the junction of Manchester Road and Blackburn Road with Deardengate.

The Midland Bank is an imposing single storey building with a clock over the entrance. Two hotels, namely the Commercial and the Black Bull, front onto this junction. Both were built about 1830, and although the Black Bull is architecturally the more interesting, it is the Commercial Hotel, with its fine clock

Haslingden Town Centre
Key to Buildings and Sites of Interest

1. Midland Bank
2. Black Bull Hotel
3. Commercial Hotel
4. Car Parks
5. Roe Buck Inn
6. Congregational Church
7. Manchester Road Methodist Church
8. Liberal Club
9. Haslingden Health Centre
10. Primitive Methodist Free Church
11. Home of David Shackleton
12. Mechanics Institute
13. Former Bank
14. Empire Cinema
15. Fine House
16. Thorn Hotel
17. Former Village Lockup
18. Site of Methodist Chapel
19. Site of Michael Davitt's Home
20. St. James' Parish Church
21. Fountain House
22. Coal Hey
23. Old Houses
24. Townsend Street Mission
25. Bank Villas
26. Well House
27. Former Loomshop
28. Conservative Club
29. New Jerusalem Church
30. Site of Salem Methodist Church
31. St. James' Primary School
32. Old Cottages
33. Public Hall
34. Regent Hotel
35. Old Shop and House
36. Old Shops
37. Trades Club
38. The Lindens

0 100 500 Feet

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T. Public Toilets

cantilevered over Manchester Road, which is more a part of the history of the town. It was from one of its upper windows that Mrs Pankhurst addressed her supporters in 1907. A few years earlier the young Winston Churchill was refreshed with a chicken sandwich and a glass of port at the Commercial Hotel.

Proceed in a southerly direction along Deardengate.

On the right is the Roe Buck Inn which was rebuilt in 1896, being an attractive building externally. Can you spot the datestone? JK stands for the former John Kenyon Brewery at Cloughfold.

Continue on to Helmshore Road.

Note the former Congregational Church, built in 1855, behind the petrol filling station.

Turn left to walk through the gardens, passing the War Memorial to the right, before turning left on to Manchester Road. On the left is the Manchester Road Methodist Church.

Town Trail

This church was opened in 1857 and enlarged in 1883 to seat 850 people. It is a fine building in the Gothic Style, made all the more exceptional by being accompanied by a manse and caretaker's house both in the same style and built in 1873. The church has been altered inside to accommodate the Sunday School, the original building of 1862 being demolished in 1981.

Across the road, on the corner of Park Street, is the former Liberal Club.

This building, which was built in 1899, is no longer used for its original purpose. On the left, standing on the site of the Methodist Sunday School is the new Haslingden Health Centre, a competent building faced in stone and Welsh slate which has only recently been completed.

Proceeding along Manchester Road look up Beaconsfield Street, to the right, where the Primitive Methodist Free Church will be seen.

This building, which was built in 1881, initially looked over green fields. It closed as a church in 1967.

No 21 Manchester Road, on the left, was the boyhood home of David Shackleton.

Sir David Shackleton, was born in Rawtenstall and grew up in his parent's shop at No 21 Manchester Road, Haslingden. He became a union leader, later in life, after his move to the Blackburn area. It was whilst in his post as a civil servant that he later came to be knighted for services to his country.

At the traffic lights turn right into Deardengate.

*On the right is the library which was opened in 1860 as the Mechanics' Institute in the presence of the Bishop of Manchester and Sir James Kay Shuttleworth, the owner of Gawthorpe Hall in Padiham and a close friend of Charlc*te Brontë. It is interesting to note that the Mechanics' Institution in Haslingden was formed in 1846, initially meeting in various buildings. In 1905 Mr Andrew Carnegie gave £2,500 to purchase the building for use as a public library. Beyond on the right are three buildings of interest. The first, the V G Store, was originally a bank and retains its fine side elevations. Its presence led to the naming of the adjacent street. Beyond is the former Empire Cinema which began life in the late 18th century as the home of the Lonsdale family. In 1813 it was purchased for use as a Vicarage and in 1887 it was utilised as a laundry and by the outbreak of the First World War it became the Empire Picture Hall. Its fine Georgian facade was removed in 1936 when the hall was brought up to date with the introduction of talking pictures, but the building's side wall in Bank Street remains intact including the original stone quoins. Adjoining the Empire is a fine house which probably dates from the 18th century which was remodelled in 1848 and might have started life as the home of one of the manufacturers mentioned by Aikin in 1795.*

Turn right into Bank Street and left into Bury Road noting the Thorn Hotel opposite.

The Thorn Hotel was originally built by the Lonsdale family at the end of the 18th century. Although its present appearance reflects extensive late Victorian influences, by the addition of projecting stone bays, the doorway retains the same characteristics as those depicted in an early sketch when the Thorn was known as the New Inn. During the Power-loom Riots Mr Grey, the local Vicar and Magistrate, held Court here, and for a time some of the rioters were imprisoned on the premises, until a mob threatened the Court and they had to be released. The newsagent's shop facing the Thorn Hotel has in its basement (what was once) the former village lockup.

Turn right into Chapel Street and left on to the public footpath alongside the small burial ground.

On the right, beyond the burial ground, stood Haslingden's second oldest Methodist Chapel founded in 1798 and demolished in 1979. The few adjacent preserved gravestones are all that remains to-day.

Town Trail

Continue ahead along King Street turning left into Wilkinson Street noting the memorial on the right.

This memorial marks the site of Michael Davitt's home. Arriving in Haslingden at the tender age of four, this Irish patriot was to spend the next seventeen years in the town eventually leaving to become a commercial traveller.

Turn right on to Church Street. To the left is the Parish Church of St James.

St James Church possibly stands on a Saxon site and was certainly in being in 1284. Outside the tower is the base of a double Saxon Cross sometimes known as "The Plaguestone". The present structure is essentially a Georgian building with a tower dating back to 1828. Although the interior was almost completely reconstructed in 1878 is still retains a Medieval chest and an old seven sided font. The churchyard contains a number of gravestones with humorous inscriptions. Adjacent to the eastern gate is a gravestone relating to Christopher Duckworth who was in charge of a string of pack ponies. Part of the inscription on the gravestone reads as follows:

Underneath this stone are deposited the Remains of Christopher Duckworth; who (in the Capacity of a Servant, to Mr Richard Lonsdale and his son Mr David Lonsdale of Haslingden) followed a Gange of Pack Horses upwards of half a century: and died on the 18th Day of June 1800, Aged 66 years. Fifty six Years he unoffensive mov'd (Loving his Horses, by his Horses lov'd). In faithful servitude the Roads along and seldom said and seldom did he wrong...

Continuing up Church Street note Fountain House on the right.

Fountain House is a fine example of an early merchant's house, retaining its stone flag roof, elaborate doorway and original wooden door. Even the iron railings, which have now gone, survived the war effort. Until recently this building, which has a stepped mullioned window in its south elevation, was linked to the mill behind.

Bear left into High Street and immediately right into Higher Lane. As Higher Lane climbs up there are fine views to the left of the valley with the Haslingden Bypass in the bottom and glimpses of the Bowland Fells ahead. Looking back there are fine views of the moors to the west dominated by Musbury Tor. Ignore a lane which branches off to the right. Where the lane turns left to Slate Farm and Yonne Cottage take the green track ahead making towards some scattered Larch trees on the hillside beyond. Ignore a track which soon comes in from the right and bear round to the left. Here the track can be very boggy being shared with a stream. Soon the path crosses a stile, then passes over a small slab bridge before crossing the macadamed road leading to the Duckworth Clough landfill site. Continue on the lane ahead past Green House Farm.

The path is waymarked by the symbol: 5

Green House Farm was originally known as "Cribden Side" and later as "Green Houses". Here William Cockerill and his family lived. It used to be said that one in ten of the people born in Haslingden had Cockerill blood in them. William, whilst living in Haslingden, made some of the first spinning machinery and shuttles for looms. He shortly afterwards, with his two sons, went to Belgium and constructed carding machinery for two of the largest woollen cloth manufacturers and was thus instrumental in starting the Industrial Revolution in Belgium. He became very wealthy but returned to Haslingden many times in later life. William's son, John Cockerill (1790-1840) born in Higher Lane, Haslingden, was the most successful member of the family. He had business interests throughout Europe and built the first locomotive on the Continent. He was Haslingden's most famous son.

Beyond, the well maintained Makin Gate is soon reached where the surfaced lane terminates. Inside the barn is a datestone "GDM 1741". Take the grassy walled footpath straight

ahead to the right of the farm building. At the point where the overhead power lines cross this footpath cross over a stile to the left. The path now continues uphill across the meadow to a stile and then up to the top corner of the plantation in Sherfin Clough bearing left on to a well defined path which drops down to a bridge over a stream at the head of the woodland. The path now continues ahead, crossing a series of stiles, Sherfin Top coming into view to the right fairly soon. Eventually, a well defined track crosses the path at a point where the stone wall to the left terminates.

Nearby is "Long Dike" which may be an ancient boundary.

Turn left on to the track which soon leads into Stone Fold Village passing the former Top of Croft Farmhouse.

This farmhouse has a datestone "A-A Cottam 1835".

Turn right on to the King's Highway into Stone Fold.

Wesley once passed through Stone Fold along the King's Highway and said he would never come again since the roads were so rough. Stone Fold is an

Stone Fold about thirty years ago

old village. The derelict land to the south of the row of red brick cottages is the site of the cotton mill which was operating in the mid 19th century. Opposite is the Manor House which has an interesting datestone "CHA 1755". It was for many years occupied by the owner of the mill. On the left is a cottage that was, until about thirty years ago, the George & Dragon Inn. Beyond is a fine three storey 18th century house with an interesting inscription over the door "John and A Cottam 1767. Go in peace and sin no more", and a drainpipe head with a dove and olive branch. John Cottam was a Quaker.

The Farmers Glory

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol:

RW

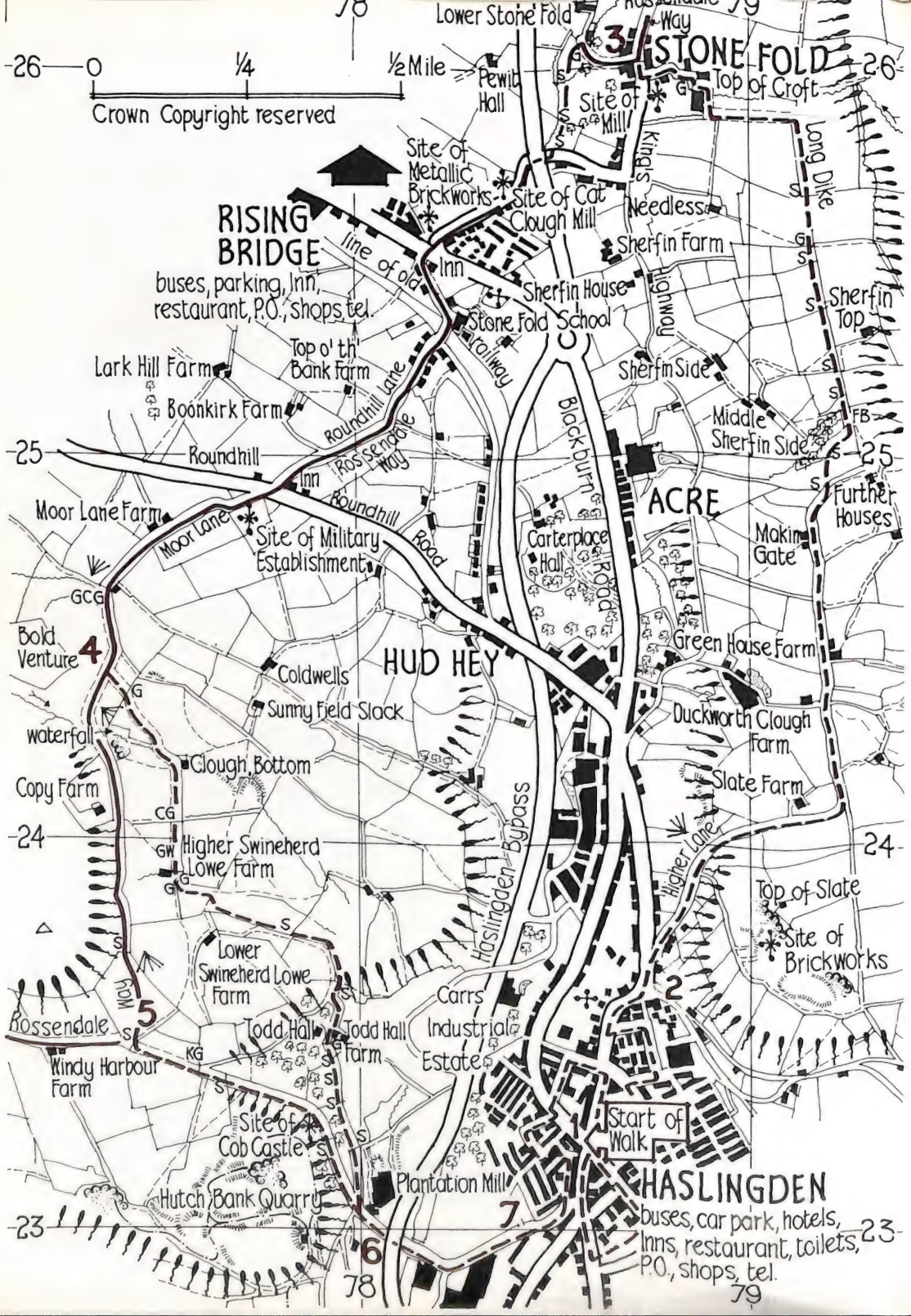
Church of St John the Evangelist, Stone Fold

Pewit Hall is named after the local name for a Lapwing.

The footpath is now clear to follow running along the right-hand side of a small stream and after crossing two further stiles turn right on to Northfield Road to pass under the road bridge.

On the right, in the trees, is the site of Cat Clough Mill and beyond is the site of the Metallic Brickworks which only had a short life from 1890 until 1900.

Where Northfield Road bends round to


26
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78
79
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Way
3
STONE FOLD
Top of Croft
Pewit Hall
Site of Mill
Kings
Long Dike
Needless
Site of Metallic Brickworks
Site of Cat Clough Mill
RISING BRIDGE
line of old
Inn
buses, parking, Inn, restaurant, P.O., shops tel.
Sherfin Farm
Sherfin House
Highway
Sherfin Top
Stone Fold School
railway
Top o' th' Bank Farm
Lark Hill Farm
Boonkirk Farm
Roundhill Lane
Sherfin Side
Middle Sherfin Side
FB
25
Roundhill
Rossendale Way
Inn
Blackburn
ACRE
Further Houses
Moor Lane Farm
Moor Lane
Site of Military Establishment
Roundhill Road
Carterplace Hall
Road
Makin Gate
GCG
Bold Venture
4
HUD HEY
Green House Farm
Coldwells
Sunny Field Slack
Duckworth Clough Farm
waterfall
Clough Bottom
Slate Farm
Copy Farm
CG
24
GW
Higher Swineherd Lowe Farm
Haslingden Bypass
Higher Lane
Top of Slate
Site of Brickworks
Lower Swineherd Lowe Farm
Rossendale Way
5
Carrs Industrial Estate
2
Todd Hall
Todd Hall Farm
KG
Windy Harbour Farm
Start of Walk
Site of Cob Castle
Plantation Mill
7
HASLINGDEN
buses, car park, hotels, Inns, restaurant, toilets, P.O., shops, tel.
Hutch Bank Quarry
23
6
78
79

Todd Hall before its extensive alteration

the left proceed up the flight of steps to cross Blackburn Road into Worsley Street at the side of Rising Bridge Post Office.

Rising Bridge developed in the 19th century as a small cotton town and is best known to-day for the manufacture of Holland's Pies. The nearby Rising Bridge Inn provides bar snacks and meals. A few yards to the south the fine Church of St John the Evangelist was designed, in 1885, by Basil Champneys a well known Victorian architect.

Almost immediately the Rossendale Way turns left into Roundhill Lane which soon bends round to the right past Stone Fold School then crossing the former railway bridge over the cutting which has now been filled in where the Stubbins/Accrington railway line ran.

Dr. Rhodes Boyson, a member of Mrs Thatcher's Government, attended Stone Fold Primary School. The Stubbins/Accrington railway line was opened in 1846 and closed in 1966. The cutting was filled with surplus material at the time the Haslingden Bypass was built in the late 1970's, this section of line formerly being part of a steep incline up to Baxenden summit.

Ignore Rising Bridge Road, which branches off to the left, and continue ahead uphill on Roundhill Lane past some bungalows. Soon Roundhill Lane passes through attractive countryside emerging on Roundhill Road at the side of the Farmers Glory.

Bar snacks and meals are available at the Farmers Glory, which is an attractive building having a datestone "WT 1891".

The Rossendale Way crosses Roundhill Road into Moor Lane, a narrow track at the right-hand end of a small plantation. Note the wall on the right-hand side constructed of pieces of old concrete.

Nearby was a military establishment in the last war and the pieces of concrete used in the wall probably came from demolition works after the war.

The lane gradually climbs and beyond Moor Lane Farm fine views open up behind of Pendle Hill and the Bowland Fells. The walled lane terminates at a gate adjacent to a cattle grid and the track continues across the open moorland towards Copy Farm, which is visible on the skyline. To the right across the moorland is a large area of land enclosed by a wall.

This area of land was reclaimed from the moor many years ago by a former resident of Moor Lane Farm and on the 1844 Ordnance Survey map is appropriately shown as "Bold Venture"

To the left are fine views of Haslingden and the lower Rossendale Valley. An alternative route leaving the Rossendale Way and branching off to the left is described first.

This track leading off to the left soon passes through a gate and then descends to Clough Bottom. Note the waterfall in a little glen to the right. A straight lane passing over a cattle grid and through a gateway leads to Higher Swineherd Lowe Farm. After passing through two gates adjacent to the farm buildings the path strikes across a field to the left of Lower Swineherd Lowe Farm alongside a wall, passing through two stiles. The path soon joins the macadamed farm road which leads downhill to Todd Hall.

Todd Hall has been extensively altered over the years and was originally unusual for having four storeys, being on a site that has been occupied since the 13th century. Major Halstead wrote in 1917, "Todd Hall was the residence of a branch of the Holden family and was said to be haunted by the ghost of a lady who paid regular visits always dressed in a rustling black silk dress. A hoard of money was once found which,

4

Alternative Route

it was said, was the cause of the periodical visits".

The path proceeds to the east of the boundary wall to the garden of Todd Hall passing through a gate and a series of stiles behind the new Carrs Industrial Estate emerging in the walled Underbank Road to join the main path again.

4 Continue ahead along the Rossendale Way, which soon becomes walled on both sides adjacent to Copy Farm.

Copy Farm, which has a high and substantial dry stone wall around it, was used as an isolation hospital about the turn of the century.

Near the entrance to Copy Farm the well defined track terminates, the Rossendale Way continuing ahead alongside a high stone wall to the left, with fine views of Haslingden over the wall. A gate with a stile to the left of it gives access on to a pleasant green field and a path downhill.

Ahead are further fine views of the lower Rossendale Valley and on a clear day the Manchester area beyond with the Co-operative Insurance Society building clearly visible. To the right the Peel monument and Musbury Tor can also be seen.

At the bottom of this field leave the Rossendale Way which turns right along a well defined track.

5 Turn sharp left crossing over a stile to follow along a green track in a slight cutting. Pass through a kissing gate taking the right-hand lane known as Cob Castle Road soon passing over another stile to follow along the bottom of the quarry spoil heaps and the site of Cob Castle.

Hutch Bank was a busy quarry for setts and building stone and a tramway linked with Grane Sidings which were built to handle the stone.

At the end of the spoil heaps a further stile gives access on to a pleasant green section of Cob Castle Road leading steeply down through the woodland to join the alternative route at the junction of Underbank Road.

6 Continue ahead along Flip Road passing under the Haslingden Bypass then across the line of the Stubbins/Accrington railway, bearing left on to Charles Lane.

On the right is Spring Vale Mill dated 1847, an interesting Victorian building with a series of round arches at ground floor level. The large embankment to the left was formed with spoil resulting from the construction of the Haslingden Bypass.

Charles Lane soon climbs steeply and narrows with high retaining walls on either side and above on the left interesting properties with projecting stone bays originally thought to have been designed to accommodate a sink.

This area of Haslingden has more of the character of a Yorkshire fishing village than a Lancashire cotton town.

Just before the Roe Buck Inn turn left down a narrow passage. Ahead across the open area is Coal Hey.

7

Coal Hey comprises three pairs of three storey back-to-back cottages dating from about 1810. During the 19th century they were owned by the Watts family, and the loom shop on the top floor was renouned for the quality of the gingham and checks it produced. The outline of an outside staircase can be seen on the gable end leading up to a blocked "takin' in" door. This is an exceptionally fine example of a Pennine loomshop.

Proceed by the side of Coal Hey via another passage way turning left into Ratcliffe Street and left again into Townsend Street.

Coal Hey - before alterations

The Lindens - before alterations

The old houses Nos 4 to 16 Townsend Street are amongst the last of the "Watershot" houses to be constructed in Haslingden. Erected about 1842 they still retain their original stone flag roofs and stone gutters. The old principle of building "Watershot" walls was that by inserting small wedges under the inside bottom edge of the stone, the incline prevented the water from running into the building. On the left of Townsend Street is the Townsend Street Mission of 1878 presently used as a garage.

Turn right into Thomas Street which leads into Victoria Street and the attractive area known as "Well Bank".

To the left is a pair of Victorian houses dated 1871 known as "Bank Villas".

Victoria Street bears round to the right to join Blackburn Road.

On the left at the junction with Blackburn Road is Well House probably built about 1830. Blackburn Road is a turnpike road built in 1827. Adjoining Well House stands a three storey watershot building, the upper floors of which were used as loomshops and the location of the original takin' in doors can still be clearly seen. The top floor of this loomshop was for a time used by the Swedenborgian Society before they built their own church in 1840 which preceded their present building, the New Jerusalem Church in John Street. Well House and the adjoining loomshops were originally owned by the Hargreaves family, prosperous woollen merchants who also ran other loomshops in the town.

Turn left into Blackburn Road and right into John Street.

On the right is the Conservative Club erected in 1909. This outstanding building practically demonstrates the important role that politics played in Edwardian Haslingden. Major David Halstead, whose name is inscribed upon one of the stones, was a Major in the local volunteers and a Rossendale MP. He is now best remembered as a writer and historian. On the left is the New Jerusalem Church mentioned earlier.

Turn left into Regent Street walking a few yards.

To the right is the new St James Primary School which replaced the Victorian School destroyed by fire a few years ago. On the left are three cottages, recently stone cleaned, which have watershot walls and the original plain planked doors.

Now return back along Regent Street.

On the left, before the Public Hall, is the site of the Salem Methodist Church. The Public Hall is dated 1868. Here in 1900 Winston Churchill opened a bazaar, while in 1907 Mrs Pankhurst and her Suffragettes successfully disrupted a speech made by one of their greatest opponents, Mr Lewis Harcourt, later Lord Harcourt, MP for Rossendale and a Cabinet Minister at the time. During the First World War the Public Hall was used as a military hospital mainly for Belgian soldiers. Across the road were once the studios of the International flautist Atara Ben - Tovim.

Proceed further along Regent Street to the Market Place.

On the right is the Regent Hotel where bar snacks and meals are available. This is linked with a common stone band to a house and shop with watershot walls. Opposite is the Trades Club, which has a stained glass window listing local trades.

Leading off on the left from the Market Place is Church Street.

Town Trail

On the left, in Church Street, are a few old three storey shops which have survived the systematic destruction of old Haslingden which started in the 1930's. On the gable end of this block can be seen a takin' in door, and, until recently, the remains of a hoist beam could also be seen. On the south side of the Market Place is The Lindens, a Georgian building. It was in this Market Place that Mrs Pankhurst gave a memorable speech in 1907.

Turn right into Deardengate and the starting point is soon reached.

Ramble No 6

Around the Haslingden Grane Valley

DISTANCE: Approximately seven miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Four and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The route of this walk is for the most part an upland path following round the perimeter of the Grane Valley, much of it being on or near the 1,000 feet contour. The initial climb is gradual apart from a short steep section up to Cloud Hill Farm and there is another short steep climb from Deep Clough up to Dilly Moor.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a bus service from Haslingden along Holcombe Road and the section of Grane Road as far as the Holden Arms Hotel in each direction. A less frequent service operates via the whole length of Grane Road in each direction being part of the Roachdale/Preston route.

PARKING: There is a car park adjacent to St Stephen's Church at the junction of Grane Road and Holcombe Road and parking is also permissible on Holcombe Road.

Particular features of this walk are the many fine views of this attractive valley with its expanses of water and recently planted woodlands. This valley was once much more populated than it is to-day and our route passes many ruined buildings which were largely abandoned at the beginning of this century.

1 This walk starts outside the Holden Arms

This attractive old inn provides bar snacks and meals.

Cross the road to the cemetery and walk along the footpath in a westerly direction taking the track off to the right at the end of the cemetery wall.

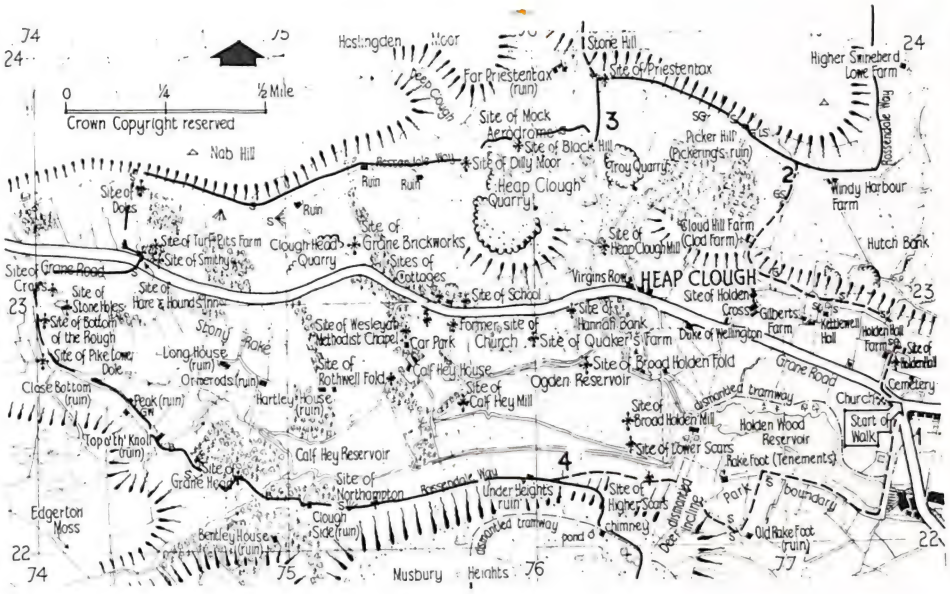
6 The path is waymarked by the symbol:

Grane Road was built as a turnpike road in 1789. Note St Stephen's Church which was originally built one and a quarter miles further up the valley in 1868 and was moved stone by numbered stone to its present site in 1926, since by this time the upper part of the valley was largely depopulated. The public footpath sign makes reference to the site of Holden Hall.

After passing through Holden Hall farmyard pass through a gated stile to the left of a farm gate.

Holden Hall, which dated from the 15th century, was demolished at the turn of the century to make way for an extension to the cemetery. Holden Hall Farm has evidence of 17th century work in its construction in the form of an old doorway and window at ground floor level.

The footpath follows round to the right past a barn and then becomes depressed in a slight cutting. A stile gives access on to the open moorland. Follow the less well defined path straight ahead alongside the stone wall ignoring the track to the right which climbs up to the spoil heaps on the skyline. Leave the moor passing over a stile at the point where the stone wall projects out, to cross part of a field then



over two further stiles to pass through the edge of the wooded grounds of Kettlewell Hall.

Kettlewell Hall was the site of the Grane Tea Gardens which operated from about 1916 until 1941. Time, care, patience and a lot of cuttings transformed this bare hillside into a miniature woodland after the War. A Mr Bradshaw was responsible for its transformation. The grounds are particularly beautiful in the Springtime abounding with daffodils.

The path now proceeds straight ahead to join a well defined track from Gilberts Farm which climbs steeply up the hillside.

Over to the left is the site of Holden Cross. About 1914 the base of the ancient cross, which was all that remained, was moved by Major Halstead, Mayor of Haslingden and Member of Parliament, and it is now located in Victoria Park, Haslingden, within the railings of the clock tower.

After passing through a gate Cloud Hill, formerly known as Clod Farm, is soon reached.

The setting of Cloud Hill Farm has been much improved in recent years with the planting of the nearby experimental woodland by the Forestry Commission in the early 1960's to see how tree growth was affected by the high levels of pollution from industrial Lancashire.

Continue along a level grassy track with a post and wire fence on the left. After crossing a stile to the right of a gate continue straight ahead across the field to a dilapidated stone wall at the far side. At this point the Rossendale Way, a well defined track which runs behind the stone wall, is joined. The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol.

Turn left and a gate with a ladder stile at the right-hand side is soon reached. Beyond the ruins of Picker Hill pass through a further stile continuing ahead along the well defined track.

Picker Hill is described as "Pickering's" on the 1844 Ordnance Survey map. As mentioned in the introduction to this walk many of the smaller farms in this valley were abandoned in the first decade of the present century.

Pass over a further stile with a gate to the right and still keep straight ahead ignoring a grassy track which climbs steeply to the right. The wall to the left

RW 2 Rossendale Way

soon becomes more dilapidated and some isolated trees are reached.

The two isolated trees are adjacent to the site of a property known as Priestentax, which means "Priests' Intake". In the upper part of the Grane Valley a number of old stone posts survive with circular holes cut into them. Wooden poles were pushed through the holes to make a simple gate. A number of locally made bricks can be seen at many of the old farms hereabouts.

Just beyond the trees the Rossendale Way turns left on to a rough stoney track.

Ahead are the ruins of Far Priestentax and the rough track to the right leads up on to Thirteen Stone Hill, the site of a stone circle which originally had thirteen standing stones. Depressions in the ground still indicate the location of the stones.

Soon a group of three trees is reached beyond the ruins of Troy Farm.

Adjacent to these ruins is an old sheep dip with some stone steps leading down to it.

The Rossendale Way leaves the track branching off to the right by the trees.

3 *For those wishing to make a short detour here continue downhill on the stoney track. On the left is Troy Quarry, now disused, which is very impressive and has some fine rock faces and a pinnacle sometimes used by experienced hard climbers. Beyond, on the right, is the site of Heap Clough Mill. At Heap Clough the block to the right fronting Grane Road has long been known as Virgins' Row, since at one time it was inhabited in its entirety by batchelors. A short distance to the east along Grane Road is the Duke of Wellington, a well known local Free House where bar snacks are available'.*

'The next section of the Rossendale Way is not clearly defined but can be followed quite easily by careful reference to the pattern of stone walls which on the whole are fairly neglected hereabouts. **3**

On the right, between the Rossendale Way and the steep contours beyond, during the last war was located a mock aerodrome to induce enemy bombers to attack here rather than drop their bombs on more strategic sites in the nearby towns.

The Rossendale Way passes the site of Black Hill before dropping steeply down to cross the aptly named Deep Clough,

Duke of Wellington

skirting the Heap Clough Quarry workings and steeply climbing up to the few remains which mark the site of Dilly Moor which appear on the skyline.

Heap Clough Quarry started in the middle of the 19th century and its peak was from 1880 up to the beginning of the First World War. It is still a working quarry.

From Dilly Moor the path heads across two fields making for a further ruin.

Along this section of the path there is evidence of paving which could perhaps be the remains of an early packhorse route.

At this ruin, which probably dates from the 18th century or earlier, the grassy track is well defined being lined on each side with a neglected stone wall. A little further on a group of trees on the right-hand side marks the next ruin which has evidence of a fine fireplace at the western end of the building.

Just beyond, and to the left, a belt of young trees has recently been planted and also over to the left is the site of the Grane Brickworks which only operated for a short period between 1897 and 1901. Nearby the Clough Head Quarry was started by Sir Henry Maden of Bacup in the late 1890's. It only lasted for between ten and twenty years. The section of the Rossendale Way up to the next ruin is shown as Foe Edge or Fowl Edge on early maps.

A further ruin is soon reached and beyond this the path crosses two stiles, the first over a new fence and the second over a substantial stone wall.

From here there are splendid views back down the valley of Haslingden and Rawtenstall and the two lower reservoirs.

The path now has a substantial stone wall immediately to the left.

Over the wall are fine views of the upper part of the Grane Valley with Winter Hill beyond.

Soon the path passes behind a further experimental woodland planted by the Forestry Commission in the early 1960's. Beyond the plantation look out for a stile in a section of fencing in the wall to the left where the Rossendale Way leaves this track.

Having crossed the stile there is evidence of part of a lower wall from Doles Farm built into the dry stone wall; also a fine stone well with iron cramps.

The Rossendale Way now heads across the meadow to a stile on the edge of Grane Road. Turn left on to Grane Road and look out for another stile on the right-hand side a few yards downhill.

On the left at this point are the sites of Turf Pits Farm, the Hare and Hounds Inn and a smithy all of which were functioning in the mid 19th century.

Having left the Grane Road the Rossendale Way strikes off across the moorland in a westerly direction and in a few yards joins a well defined track which traverses the head of the valley past the sites of a number of properties which have long since disappeared descending to a stream. Bear right up a walled lane. After 20 yards turn left through a gateway and contour the hillside above a walled track returning to the track at Peak.

The countryside hereabouts is very barren and the small farmers could not have survived without an additional income. Initially this was obtained from handloom weaving and later many of the residents worked in the local quarries or mills. However, the remote upper part of this valley throughout the 19th century had another industry, that of illegal whisky distilling. It was made in great secrecy in hidden chambers and passages that ran beneath the farmhouses. How many distillers there were will never be known as very few "whisky-spinners" were ever caught. However, it is known that whisky was distilled at Pike Lowe in the 1850's where there was a specially built complex which cost the Government about £50,000 in lost revenue. There was a case in 1857 involving Jonathan Haworth who lived at Bentley House near Fairy Glen and the illegal distilling is known to have continued until early this century.

Rossendale Way

At Top o'th' Knoll the Rossendale Way crosses a bridge over the stream and proceeds up the hill to cross a stile at the southern corner of a plantation.

Pause for a moment to look at the fine view through the trees to the left over the Calf Hey and Ogden Reservoirs.

The path proceeds downhill round the edge of the woodland past two freestanding former gate posts, keeping a little quarry on the right. At the site of Grane Head turn left (past waymark on stone post). Turn right past another post onto the Calf Hey Trail, soon crossing a footbridge over a stream. At point 8 on the Calf Hey Trail go east south east towards Clough Side. Turn left to the north of the ruins of Clough Side past a lone Sycamore between blocks of Conifers.

For more information on the Calf Hey and Grane Village areas see the leaflet on the "Calf Hey Trail" produced by Lancashire County Council on behalf of the Rossendale Groundwork Trust.

At the end of the woodland the path crosses a stile and proceeds ahead roughly along the same contour following a path on a mound with a ditch to the right.

At this point an attractive view across and down the valley opens out. The Calf Hey Reservoir was built between 1854 and 1859 by the Bury and Radcliffe Waterworks Company. To the north of the reservoir the remains of Lower Ormerods have been excavated, although little exists to-day of Grane Village or the hamlet of Rothwell Fold but the sites are both now attractively wooded.

The path continues alongside a fence passing the site of Northampton and further on the ruins of Under Heights.

To the right the scree from the Mushbury Quarry is clearly evident and to the left is the large expanse of the Ogden Reservoir which was constructed between 1903 and 1910 by the Bury and Radcliffe Waterworks Company and officially opened in 1912. The sites of two mills and one hamlet lie under the water and across the reservoir, especially in the winter months, the former site of St Stephen's Church can be seen marked by a number of tombstones. The character of

Rossendale Way

The ruins of Bentley House

this valley has changed much in the last 150 years and just before the construction of the reservoirs it had a population of 1,300, being much greater than that of to-day. The old Grane Village in particular abounded with characters, many of whom had nicknames. To-day there are many more trees in this valley than at any time during the past 300 years.

A little further on the Rossendale Way climbs steeply up towards the quarry to the right.

4 Here follow the less obvious path which drops gradually to pass the site of Higher Scars almost adjacent to the reservoir dam.

To the right you will see a wooded clough on the steep hillside and beyond the remains of the dismantled tramway incline with a tunnel through it. This incline was used to convey stone from Musbury Heights Quarry, thence via a tramway along the north side of the Holden Wood Reservoir to the Stubbins/Accrington railway line.

Having passed through, or over, the dismantled incline keep on the moorland passing round the top side of a field with a barbed wire fence.

To the left you will see the white painted Rake Foot Farm originally known as "Tenements", with its datestone "JB RAKE FOOT 1883". Beyond is Holden Wood Reservoir which was completed in 1841 as a compensation reservoir to supply mills downstream with waterpower.

After crossing a swampy area and two stiles the path leaves the moorland crossing a meadow to the north of the ruins of Old Rake Foot.

On the east elevation of the ruins of Old Rake Foot on a lintel is carved "G D 1718".

A stile leads on to the macadamed road leading to Rake Foot Farm. Turn right and after turning sharp left to cross the dam of the Holden Wood Reservoir the Holden Arms is soon reached.

Ramble No 7

A Walk from Higher Mill in Helmshore around the Musbury Valley

DISTANCE: Approximately five miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Three and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The route of this walk is for the most part an upland path skirting the Grane Valley and going round the Musbury Valley. It does involve some climbing up and down but the gradients are fairly easy apart from a steep climb up from the Grane Valley to the Musbury Heights Quarry.

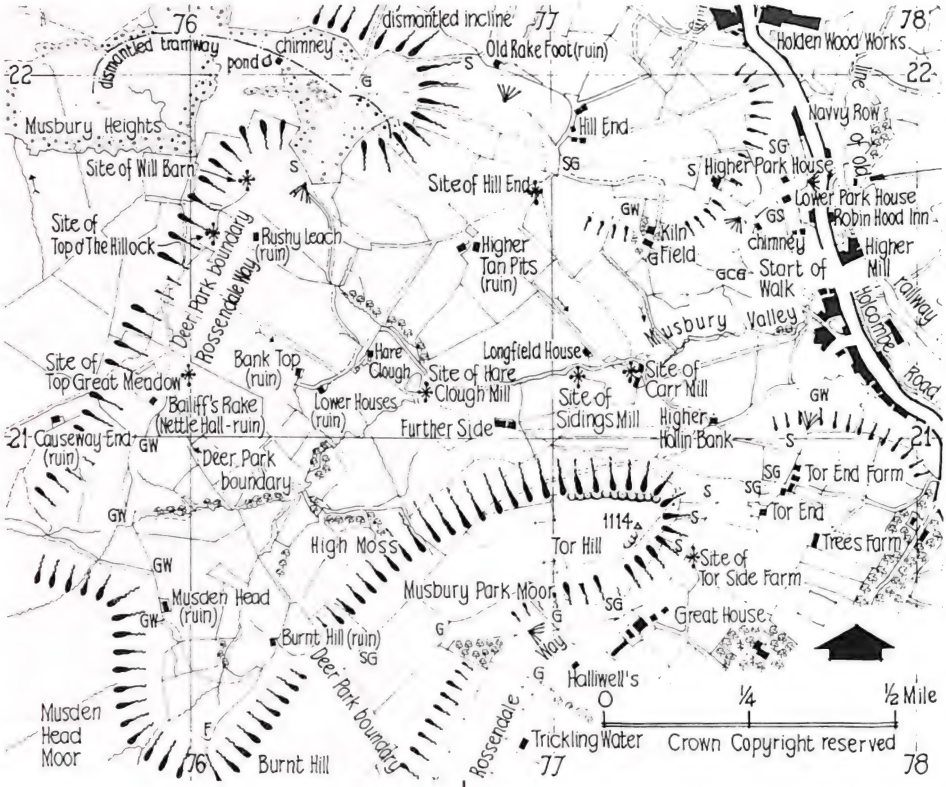
PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a bus service from Haslingden along Holcombe Road in each direction.

PARKING: There is a large car park at Higher Mill and parking is permissible on Holcombe Road.

Particular features of this walk are the fine views of the Grane Valley with its attractive expanses of water and recently planted woodlands, and in contrast the very wild but beautiful Musbury Valley much of which was laid out as a Royal Deer Park in Medieval times. From many points of the walk there are extensive views of the Rossendale Valley beyond.

This walk starts at the car park to the south of Higher Mill, now the Museum of the Lancashire Textile Industry, which is well worth a visit at either the beginning or the end of this walk. 1

Higher Mill was originally constructed early in the last century and was substantially rebuilt about 1859/60 following a disastrous fire. This mill was built as a steam-powered enterprise,



but also had a waterwheel like the fulling mill adjacent to it. The archway at the east end of Higher Mill leads to a water-powered fulling mill of the same name built by the Turner family in 1789. William Turner, who owned the mill until his death in 1852, was responsible for a major part of the early development of Helmshore. The late 19th and early 20th century owners of the mill were a well-known local family called Whitaker. Higher Mill was acquired by a local trust formed through a local historical society when it became redundant in 1967. In the mid 1970's it was handed over to Lancashire County Council who soon afterwards also acquired the adjacent cotton mill. The Higher Mill lodges have now been reclaimed and the 18 ft diameter waterwheel has been renovated and this and the fulling stocks are regularly demonstrated to visitors to the museum. The waterwheel had been in regular use from 1800 until 1954 when it broke down.

On leaving the car park turn right on to Holcombe Road proceeding in a northerly direction.

Note the chimney on elevated ground to the left, which was built in 1820 initially to serve an extension to Higher Mill and later the larger building which was built over the river. The flue passes under Holcombe Road and this is a device frequently used in the South Pennines in the 19th century to obtain greater draught without having to build a very tall chimney. To the right behind the stone wall are two lodges serving Higher Mill. They are supplied with fresh spring water for use in the various woollen manufacturing processes. The River Ogden flows behind and beyond is the larger lodge supplied direct from the river which is used to power the

waterwheel. A fine view is obtained of Higher Mill backed by the viaduct of the former Stubbins/Accrington railway line which was opened in 1848 and closed in 1966. Behind in the trees is the 18th century Mill Master's House which has recently been carefully restored.

The Robin Hood Inn is soon reached and opposite are some attractive 18th century cottages.

The Robin Hood Inn is a noted Real Ale house and bar snacks and meals are provided. It has some fine glass windows. The Robin Hood and the cottages opposite are known as Wood Bottom. They originally housed workers for a nearby mill and at one time 90 people lived here. Beyond the Robin Hood Inn the attractive block of cottages with a datestone "OJ & J AD 1829 Wear Foot Musbury" known as Weir Foot have recently been carefully restored by a housing association. These cottages used to be nick-named Wedge Row, or Coffin Row, because of the overall plan shape of the block. They were built by the Ormerod family who ran Camms Mill, now demolished.

On the left-hand side of Holcombe Road a little further on is a block of 19th century cottages known as "Park Lane View".

Datestone at Old Rake Foot

This block with a datestone "PARK LANE VIEW J & AM AD 1877" later housed the Irish Navvies who came over to help to build the nearby Ogden Reservoir. Locally this block has long been known as Navvy Row.

At the end of this block take the track which climbs up steeply behind the property. Abreast of the southern end of these houses cross over a stile at the left-hand side of a gate and continue up the well defined track.

The path is waymarked by the symbol: 7

Soon there are fine views ahead of the Higher Mill chimney and to the left the restored cottages in the valley below and beyond them the railway viaduct and behind the former Mill Master's House.

Higher Mill, Helmshore

The path turns sharply to the right and Lower Park House and the barn opposite come into view.

The use of the word "Park" in the name of this property related to Musbury Park since a large part of the Musbury Valley was enclosed with a fence and ditch in Medieval times. The names of farms which include the word "Park" usually indicate that they at one time belonged to the Duckworth family. The present Lower Park House appears to date from the early part of the 19th century, being in a semi-derelict state and presently used as a barn.

Proceed straight ahead with fine views of the Rossendale Valley behind and the Musbury Valley ahead.

2 After crossing the stile at the right of a gate an alternative path may be followed by taking the lane to the left and first right through a gate, to the left of a cattle grid. Proceed past Kiln Field along a footpath to join a track up to Musbury Heights Quarry to join the Rossendale Way.

Alternative Route

2 After crossing the stile at the right of a gate turn right into a metalled lane leading up to Higher Park House.

Higher Park House is an old property which once had a datestone "DME 1777".

The path passes into a small field behind Higher Park House then over a stile into a larger narrow field continuing uphill keeping a line of small trees and shrubs immediately on the left. Just before the top of the field the path crosses the stream to the left and then passes over a stile near a gate in the wall ahead. Turn right on to the walled track which is rather boggy.

It is best here to walk on the elevated ground to the left.

Hill End soon comes into view at a junction of tracks. Take the track to the north east which climbs slightly with a stone wall to the right.

The Grane Valley soon appears with fine views of the Ogden Reservoir, and below the ruins of Old Rake Foot can be seen.

Bear right through a gap in the wall heading downhill towards the ruins of Old Rake Foot.

On the east elevation of the ruins of Old Rake Foot on a lintol is carved "GD 1718".

From Rake Foot proceed in a westerly direction keeping the post and wire fence immediately on the right. In a short distance pass over a stile. Bear left up the hillside alongside a low stone wall and post and wire fence. Follow the post and wire fence and as the path gets wet and flattens out it comes on to the line of a dismantled tramway incline.

This incline was used to convey the stone from the quarry to the Stubbins/Accrington railway line at Grane Road.

Here the Rossendale Way is joined which follows the line of a former tramway through part of Musbury Heights Quarry. **3**

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol: **RW**

On reaching the more level ground inside the quarry area the remains of the scrubbing mill chimney will be seen to the right. Unfortunately, this chimney was struck by lightning and half collapsed during the winter of 1983-84. The chimney is located adjacent to a tramway which ran to the western end of the quarry and the remains of the timber railway sleepers can still be seen. To the left are spoil heaps and a line of four upright marker stones with the letter "P" crudely carved upon them.

Go through the spoil heaps for 200 yards, a substantial dry stone wall with a well constructed stile in it comes into view. Pass over the stile.

Here pause for a few moments to enjoy the maginificent view of the wild and beautiful Musbury Valley. It is difficult to realise that in the latter part of the 18th century and the early part of the 19th century this valley had three mills. Two were initially water-powered and later steam-powered. Hare Clough Mill which was owned by James Rothwell was destroyed by fire in 1874 and was shown as being in ruins on the 1895

Rossendale Way

Ordnance Survey map. The mill lodge still survives. Slidings Mill was likewise in ruins by 1895 and the third mill was known as Carr Mill. This valley was badly damaged by a flood in July 1964.

Make towards the top side of the ruins of Rushy Leach. The next section of the Rossendale Way runs along the boundary of the Royal Deer Park.

The boundary was four and a half miles in length and comprised a ditch with a fence of wooden palings behind. These palings were transported to the site by oxen. It was laid out in 1305 and stocked with deer by Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln and Lord of the Manor of Tottington. Hawks were also preserved in the park. At the site of Top Great Meadow the boundary of the Royal Deer Park is still clearly evident veering off to the left down and across the valley.

The path continues past the ruins of Bailiff's Rake.

This farm was known locally as Nettle Hall. To the right higher up the hillside, with commanding views, are the ruins of Causeway End.

The Rossendale Way, now a green farm track, passes through a number of gateways and alongside stone walls to the ruins of Musden Head.

Farming in the Musbury Valley declined after 1918 and many of the outlying buildings began to fall into disuse.

The track crosses a stream before reaching the remains of a ford over Long Grain Water and turning sharp left heads back along the side of the valley. Soon the ruins of Burnt Hill come into view and the path bears round to the right climbing more steeply. As the path levels out the Rossendale Way crosses a stile to the right of a gate.

This point marks the boundary of the former Government experimental farm which was started in 1949 and finished in 1982.

Continue along a well defined track across a large field.

Note Musbury Tor to the left which has been reclaimed from the moorland.

After passing through a gate the track still continues straight ahead.

From here there is a fine view of Cowpe Lowe and on the right is an experimental plantation with various species, some of which are successful and others less successful.

On passing through a further gate a concrete road quickly leads down to the extensive buildings of Great House.

The Great House cottages are thought to stand on the site of the original building erected by the Earl of Lincoln. A datestone from the original building is now in a modern barn.

A gate gives access to the Great House farm complex and to the right of this is a stile over which the Rossendale Way passes. Leave the Rossendale Way here, ignoring the gate into the Great House farm complex and continue straight ahead along the shoulder of Tor Hill keeping a high stone wall immediately on the right. After crossing two stiles turn right along the edge of a large field crossing a stile adjacent to a gate at Tor End.

Tor End has been restored and extended in recent years. There is a datestone "IHA 1731" in the crazy paving of the garden.

The farm track bends sharply round to the left behind Tor End Farm. Pass over a stile to the right of a gate and proceed straight ahead with Tor End Farm buildings and a group of trees to the right. A further stile leads into another large field.

From here there are fine views ahead of Haslingden dominated by its Parish Church, and in the valley below the new housing in Helmshore.

Continue ahead alongside the wall and then across the meadow towards the Higher Mill chimney. Descend steeply over the pasture to join the walled track which quickly leads down on to Holcombe Road. Turn left along Holcombe Road and Higher Mill is soon reached.

Ramble No 8

From Irwell Vale through the Ogden, Alden and Lower Rossendale Valleys

DISTANCE: Approximately six and a half miles. (Shorter walk five and a half miles.)

TIME REQUIRED: Four and a half hours. (Shorter walk - four hours.

TERRAIN: The path is well defined and easy to follow, some of the route being along farm roads and old highways. Since much of the walk is through valleys the gradients are for the most part fairly gentle, although the road from the site of Sunny Bank Mill climbs up quite steeply to Great House. The steepest section of the path is the climb up from the footbridge at the head of the Alden Valley up on to Beetle Hill. The path climbs up to just over the 1200 feet contour on the detour to see the site of the Pilgrims Cross.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is no bus service to Irwell Vale apart from a school bus during term time, which the general public may also use. However, the Rochdale/Preston and Manchester/Clitheroe bus services pass through Ewood Bridge which is only half a mile north from Irwell Vale and in addition there is a station at Irwell Vale on the Bury/Rawtenstall railway line.

PARKING: There are no parking restrictions in and around Irwell Vale but take care when parking to avoid creating a hazard as large vehicles need access to the mill complex at the entrance to the village.

Particular features of this walk are the pleasant stretches of river scenery which are for the most part pleasantly wooded and in contrast the unspoilt stretches of moorland from which fine views are obtained of the Rossendale Valley and the Greater Manchester area beyond.

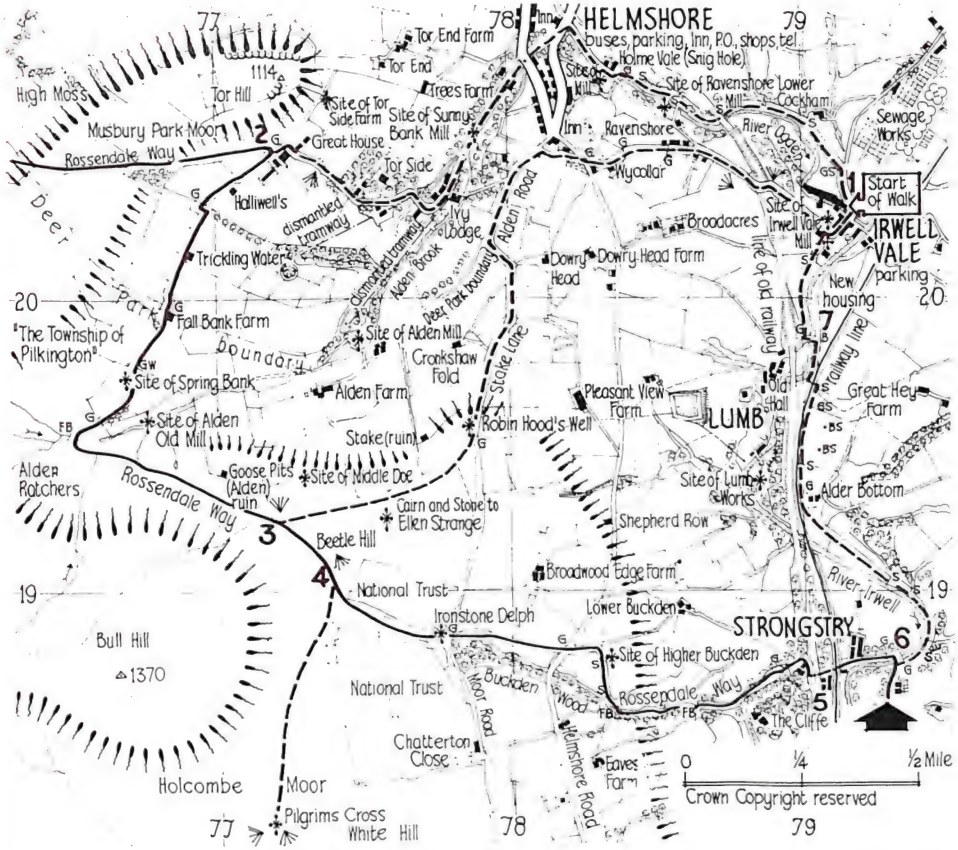
1 This walk starts at the bridge at the entrance to Irwell Vale Village.

Irwell Vale was designated a conservation area by Rossendale Borough Council in the mid 1970's, being a good example of a Lancashire mill village. Note the 1833 datestone on the cottages on the right-hand side of Bowker Street. The original mill which stood behind these cottages has now been demolished. The Methodist Church at the southern end of Bowker Street forms an attractive focal point and the building immediately to the east was once a Co-operative store. Bowker and Aitken Streets were named after the original occupier and owner of the mill. At the eastern end of the village across the bridge spanning the River Irwell, which is probably early 19th century with a later top, is an interesting village sign and nearby a former Primitive Methodist Chapel dated 1853 now converted into dwellings. Here also is a halt on the newly re-opened Bury/Rawtenstall railway operated by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society. Strongstry and the bridge carrying the main road over the River Ogden into the village also probably dates from the early 19th century and is interesting for its stone flagged parapets.

Proceed in a northerly direction along Irwell Vale Road past the red brick mill and then alongside an attractive meadow.

The mill has a datestone "TA & S Ltd 1952". The land on the right-hand side of Irwell Vale Road belongs to the North West Water Authority and is part of the Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup Sewage Works which was opened in 1898.

Irwell Vale



Soon a double gate with a stile beyond is reached. Pass over the stile and follow the grassy track across the meadow.

8 The path is waymarked by the symbol:

Lower Cockham Farm will be seen on the hill to the right. It has a datestone "LH 1717" which may refer to the Holden family.

After crossing a further stile the path becomes more wooded, following alongside the River Ogden. Soon the path passes under the arches of a lofty stone viaduct.

The viaduct carried the former Stubbins/Accrington railway line which was opened in 1848 and closed in 1966. The stretch of the river beyond the viaduct is particularly beautiful when there is plenty of water and was at one time known as "Little Blackpool" because of the number of bathers who enjoyed themselves in the pools near the viaduct. Nearby may be noticed a number of Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway boundary stones.

Soon the attractive old property known as Ravenshore will be seen across the river to the left. After crossing over the next stile a flat grassy area across the river marks the site of the former Ravenshore Mill.

Ravenshore Mill was fulling cloth by water power as early as the 17th century.

The path continues alongside the river and after passing through two further gates the hamlet of Holme Vale is reached.

Holme Vale is often known as "Snig Hole" which indicates that eels (snigs) were once common in the River Ogden. The attractive cottages were formerly a block of ten back-to-backs which have higher steps to the mullions than is usual in Rossendale. Behind these cottages originally stood a three-storey building used by hand-loom weavers. Snig Hole Mill, which was operating in 1847 and was in ruins in 1896, stood on the south side of the road leading to Snig Hole.

Proceed along the rough road which becomes surfaced alongside the Memorial Gardens.

These memorial gardens were the gift of the Porritt family in memory of those who gave their lives in the Great War. The site was formed by filling in the lodge which originally served Snig Hole Mill.

Turn left onto Helmshore Road opposite the Bridge End Hotel.

Here bar snacks and meals are provided.

Fork right along the attractive tree lined, although roughly surfaced, Sunnybank Road soon passing under the bridge carrying Holcombe Road.

The cottages to the right known as Wood Bank and those to the left originally belonged to the Sunny Bank Mill Estate.

A little further on in this pleasantly wooded valley is the site of Sunny Bank Mill.

On this site, formerly occupied by small water-powered mills, in 1866 Joseph Porritt began his woollen business. His mill was soon extended both upwards and outwards until it stretched from one slope of the valley to the other. Sunny Bank Mill at one time was the world's largest producer of papermakers' felts and also had for a time in this century the longest loom in the world. Joseph Porritt soon acquired most of the land in the Alden Valley. From his quarries in the Alden Valley he provided stone not only for his growing mill and workers' houses, but also for the buildings of St Annes-on-Sea, of which he was one of the founders. In 1914, the firm of Porritts & Spencer was formed - the Spencers were Sunny Bank employees who set up on their own in Bury in 1904 - and the enlarged group continued to dominate the papermakers' felt trade. Porritts & Spencer later merged with the Scapa Group and Sunny Bank Mill had no place in the future of the enlarged concern. In the early 1970's it was sold to developers who proposed to convert it into a hotel and leisure complex but this scheme at the time did not prove viable. Shortly afterwards the mill and ancillary buildings were gradually demolished, the chimney being the last to go in July 1977. The mill and the surrounding buildings had eight datestones from 1866 to 1929.

At the road junction take the right-hand fork along a macadamed road passing further former mill cottages.

To the left is the former stable block now converted into two attractive dwellings. Between the cottages and the stable block Joseph Porritt's tramway from one of his quarries terminated.

Continue uphill along the macadamed road passing Ivy Lodge and some former cottages known as Clough which have been attractively converted into one dwelling.

Both of these properties probably predate the coming of the Industrial Revolution into this valley.

Soon, on the right in well wooded grounds, will be seen glimpses of Tor Side House.

Tor Side House was originally built by Joseph Porritt for his own occupation and greatly extended and remodelled in the early part of this century and renamed Tor Side Hall. From 1949 until 1982 it served as the offices for the Ministry of Agriculture Great House Experimental Farm. The drainpipe heads have on them "19 P 10".

Fine views are obtained through the trees to the left of the upper part of the Alden Valley. Soon Great House Farm comes into view with its farm buildings on the left-hand side of the road and two pairs of semi-detatched cottages

facing, the whole being backed by Tor Hill behind.

These cottages are thought to stand on the site of the original manor house erected by the Earl of Lincoln to serve the deer park which he laid out in 1305. Notice the datestone "AR A 1600 RHAH" from Great House which is now in a barn. The "AR" stands for a member of the Rosthorne family and "RHAH" stands for Ralph Holden and his wife who were tenant farmers.

Proceed through the farmyard and pass through the double metal gates adjacent to the top farm building and then turn immediately left on to a well
2 defined track. At this point the Rossendale Way is joined.

RW The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol:

The track passes a farm building known as Halliwell's and after passing through a gate two further buildings known as Trickling Water and Fall Bank Farm.

These buildings are located on the spring line. Trickling Water has two datestones built into the brick gable end "TD 1736" and "TD 1741". "TD" stands for Thomas Duckworth. Fall Bank Farm has a datestone "EPHRAIM & SOPHIA SCHOFIELD AD 1874".

After passing through a gate at Fall Bank Farm the path continues ahead across a meadow passing below an isolated tree just beyond the farm building and then through a gateway in the wall and fence ahead. The path then passes below the site of Spring Bank Farm, where there is another isolated tree.

Robert "Rough Robin" Pilkington, a member of one of the oldest Helmshore families settled in Alden, the upper part of which is still known as the "Township of Pilkington". For many years he lived at Spring Bank Farm and acquired his nickname because he invariably referred to the weather as being "a bit rough". He enclosed common land on the adjoining moor, but would not pay his rates. He was, therefore, refused relief during the depression of 1826, but appealed to the Government for redress, saying he lived at the Township of Pilkington. The name stuck and Robin was dubbed the Marquis of Pilkington. As well as farming he built a bleach works known as "Alden Old Mill" at the head of the valley. Several members of the family were skilled stonemasons and James Pilkington, though illiterate, carved the inscriptions on the Pilgrims' Cross munument, erected on Holcombe Moor in 1902.

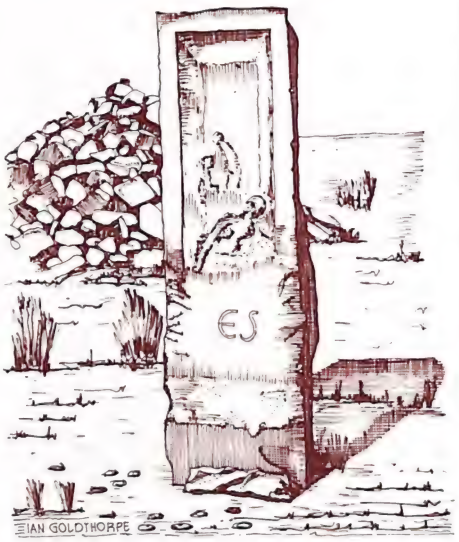
At the farm house site the path veers to the left following round by a low retaining wall which marks the right-hand boundary. Soon a line of Hawthorn trees marks the path and after passing through a gate a well defined green track leads across the open moor down to the Alden Brook at a point where there are a number of attractive little waterfalls. The track on the south side of the Brook is clearly defined, known as Elliot's Donkey Path after Robert Pilkington's son, climbing steeply up the moorland with the ruins of Goose Pits or Alden Farm to the left, to the right-hand corner of a substantial stone wall near the skyline.

On reaching the corner of the wall pause for a moment and enjoy the tremendous view to the north. On a clear day to the left of Tor Hill, Ingleborough and Pendle Hill will be visible and to the right fine views of Haslingden dominated by its Parish Church.

At this point the Rossendale Way may **3** be left and a shortened return route be followed if desired. Turn left following the path along the edge of the moorland alongside the stone wall. Look out for a stone cairn and a nearby small upright stone on the moorland to the right marking the site of the murder of Ellen Strange.

According to legend Ellen Strange lived with her parents at Ash Farm, Hawkshaw. Her lover was a pedlar named Billy from Stone Fold. One day they attended Haslingden Fair and were seen to go off home together apparently calling at the White Horse Hotel in Helmshore on their way. She was not seen again and met her death at the spot where the large cairn of

Rossendale Way



Ellen Strange stone & cairn

stones is located. The pedlar was committed for trial at Lancaster and there confessed to his guilt. He was subsequently executed at Lancaster and his body was afterwards hung on a gibbet on Bull Hill. The cairn consists of stones brought by people who visited the spot and in more recent times a memorial stone has been erected nearby.

Returning to the stone wall at the edge of the moor a gate is soon reached at a point where a number of tracks converge. Pass through this gate which gives access into a walled but somewhat boggy track known as Stake Lane. A few yards along on the left-hand side is the ancient Robin Hood's Well.

Stake Lane is so named because either it was staked out with poles, or markers, or bulls were tethered to stakes and terrier dogs attacked them; it was said to tenderise the meat. Stake Lane is possibly part of a very ancient route passing via the Pilgrims' Cross to Whalley Abbey. Little is known of the origin of Robin Hood's Well, but there are many stories about it. The well covering is pyramidal in shape, with the apex blunted. It is supported by two upright stones which are now in a poor state of repair. The well was probably placed here when the road was first constructed. How the well came to be called Robin Hood's Well is a matter of conjecture. It has been suggested that the famous outlaw, Robin Hood, may have visited these parts and that the well took its name from him. However, it should be mentioned that there was a Robin Hood Festival celebrated annually at Bury until about 1810.

Stake Lane becomes surfaced where it gives access to Dowry Head, a building which has been carefully restored.

Dowry Head is the residence of Mr David Trippier, Member of Parliament for Rossendale and Darwen and a member of Mrs Thatcher's Government.

At Alden Road turn right and then right again along the track behind the White Horse Inn.

Here bar snacks and meals are provided. The piece of land on which the hotel and the adjoining property are situated was originally known as "The Smoothing Iron", possibly because of its shape and the name Heator Nook may possibly be due to this.

Robin Hood's Well

Shorter Route

Shorter Route

Cross Helmshore Road and pass through the gate to the left of the cottages. The well defined track passes through two further gates, then passes a farm and cottages at Ravenshore.

Beyond Ravenshore look back at the fine view of the Tor Hill and after crossing the old railway bridge there are fine views through the woods of the Irwell Valley below.

Soon Irwell Vale village and the starting point are reached.

Rossendale Way

3 The Rossendale Way proceeds ahead round the shoulder of Bull Hill to the right.

On Bull Hill are the remains of an early Neolithic floor. This is a place where flint weapons, or arrows, have been found between one foot and ten feet below the peat. The flints were probably brought over from the Yorkshire Wolds area and worked here.

Soon a fine panorama ahead is obtained. The lower Rossendale Valley opens out below with Edenfield Village and over to the right the edge of the Greater Manchester conurbation dominated by a number of tower blocks. The path makes for the right-hand end of a rather dilapidated stone wall which marks the boundary of the National Trust property. A few yards before the corner of the wall is reached another path crosses the track.

4 Here it is well worthwhile making a short detour to visit the site of the Pilgrims' Cross. Turn right on to the path which crosses the Rossendale Way. Soon a sign is reached on the right which marks the boundary of the military training area. Make sure it is safe to proceed. The path gradually climbs with fine views all around and then drops slightly as the monument on the site of the ancient cross comes into view.

Detour

Clearly this path must be part of a very ancient route. Pilgrims' Cross is said to have existed in AD 1176 and probably much earlier, well before Whalley Abbey was built. Pilgrims on their way to Whalley Abbey prayed and rested here. On some of the old maps it is referred to as either Whowell's Cross or

Monument to Pilgrims' Cross

Chatterton's Cross. The present monument was set up in 1902 at the instigation of the Rev H. Dowsett, Vicar of Holcombe, on the site of the remains of the ancient cross which were destroyed by vandals in 1901. Only the base of the original cross remained before the vandals struck, and the present monument bears inscriptions recording the history of the site. Ahead to the south east is Harcles Hill on what are thought to be the remains of ancient military earthworks. On the other hand, these features could also be the work of glaciers. Beyond will be seen the Peel Monument, or Holcombe Tower, which was erected to the memory of the second Sir Robert Peel, a great Statesman and one time Premier, to commemorate the services he rendered in connection with the repeal of the Corn Laws. He was born at Chamber Hall, Bury, a little further down the valley and within the sight of the memorial erected to his memory. The monument was built in 1852, by public subscription at a cost of £900.

Detour

Now retrace your steps back to join the Rossendale Way adjacent to the boundary of the National Trust property.

4 At the corner of the wall turn left down the side of the wall. The path soon drops into a slight ravine heading towards the valley and Buckden Woods ahead.

The spoil heaps on the left are known as "Ironstone Delph" and this was possibly the source of material for an early Bloomery, a primitive furnace in

which the iron ore was covered with stone and clay beneath which it was heated.

Cross the track known as "Moor Road", doubtless an early highway, and pass through the gate ahead. The Rossendale Way now follows a well defined track which runs roughly parallel to the wall bounding the woods on the right. Cross Helmshore Road, taking the track on the opposite side. After a short distance turn right on to a track, with a well maintained stone wall on the left-hand side, which terminates at the site of Higher Buckden Farm.

Buckden Woods are all National Trust land. They are worth exploring fully. The name "Buckden" suggests that this area was at one time associated with the Musbury Deer Park.

Cross over a stile on the right-hand side which gives access into a field. The Rossendale Way now follows alongside the fence, crossing a further stile, entering the Buckden Woods and crossing a footbridge to continue down the little valley on the south side of the stream.

Colonel Porritt from Stubbins who died a millionaire at Grange-over-Sands left 435 acres, which included this beautiful wooded valley, Oxhey Wood further south and eight nearby farms, in memory of his son, Richard, who was killed in action in France, to the National Trust in 1943.

Soon the path recrosses the stream and follows it along the north side, becoming more clearly defined and passing some attractive waterfalls. After passing through a gate Buckden Cottage will be seen on the right and after passing round behind an adjacent barn the path joins a macadamed lane.

5 *It is worth while making a short detour here by continuing along the macadamed road past the site of the former Stubbins Vale Mill to Stubbins Village developed by the Porritt family in the second half of the 19th century, although some of the cottages predate the Industrial Revolution.*

In a few yards turn left passing under two railway bridges into Strongstry
5 Village.

The first bridge carried the former Stubbins/Accrington railway line and the second carries the newly reopened Bury/Rawtenstall railway operated by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society. *Strongstry and the adjoining Chatterton Village were designated a conservation area by Rossendale Borough Council in the mid 1970's.*

The Rossendale Way continues straight ahead on an unmade track alongside the River Irwell soon crossing a footbridge into Chatterton Village.

On the site of the recreation ground to the right formerly stood Mr Aitken's mill associated with the famous Chatterton Riot. In 1826 a crowd of men and women, being of the opinion, as many were at that time, that the installation of power looms would deprive them of their livelihood, entered Mr Aitken's mill and destroyed the machinery. The soldiers were called out and Mr William Grant (one of the Cheeryble Brothers) read the riot act. The crowds threw stones at the soldiers who then fired. Nine men and a woman were killed and a large number were wounded. Some of the rioters were imprisoned and others were deported to Australia.

At the end of this bridge leave the 6
Rossendale Way, turning left through a gate into a field. The path now follows closely along the right-hand bank of the River Irwell, crossing three stiles before veering away to the right towards Alder Bottom, a restored property with a datestone "ATP rebuilt 1900".

Buckden Cottage

This is possibly the loveliest stretch of river footpath in the whole of Rossendale and is as attractive as many of the river walks in the Yorkshire Dales.

After passing over a small bridge the path follows round the perimeter of the grounds of Alder Bottom to a gate with the railway line immediately to the left. This section of the path can be a little boggy at times. The path now keeps close to the railway line boundary wall and after crossing the first stile two Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway boundary stones will be seen on rising ground to the right. After crossing two further stiles descend the subway to pass under the railway line and then along the right-hand bank of the river to Lumb Bridge. Cross the bridge and take the path on the right-hand side which passes through a small gate.

7 *Lumb Bridge is an attractive two arched structure dating from the 18th century. Here it is worth while making a slight detour by proceeding along the road under the former railway viaduct into Lumb Village. Originally Lumb comprised only the old hall and a farm.*

Detour

In recent years the farmhouse has been restored and renamed Lumb Manor House and the various farm buildings have been attractively restored to form additional dwellings. Lumb Old Hall which was built by the Rosthorne family, with its well preserved cruck truss, is probably the oldest building remaining in Rossendale. The building we see to-day dates from 1482 and is the two storey service wing of the main range of buildings, which stood to the west of it, dating from about 1280. The huge "cruck" timbers still carry the marks from tools used to fell and shape them 500 years ago.

Detour

The path crosses the meadow running roughly parallel with the river to a stile at the edge of Irwell Vale. This path can be wet at times. **7**

The building to the right, adjacent to the stile, was a former works canteen which has been converted into a dwelling house and the lawn was originally a bowling green.

Proceed by the road alongside the church and the starting point is soon reached.

Ramble No 9

A Walk from Rawtenstall along the River Irwell to Stubbins and over the hills passing Scout Moor and Cowpe Lowe

DISTANCE: Approximately 12 miles. A number of alternative and shorter routes are also described.

TIME REQUIRED: For the full walk - eight hours.

TERRAIN: The route along the river side is mostly a grassy footpath, but the paths described over the moors are, for the most part, along old highways or the lines of old mineral tramways. The river side walk is flat and although the moorland section crosses the 1,400 feet contour near the site of Great Lodge the climb up from Stubbins, via Turn Village, is fairly gradual all the way. The upland sections of the walks described should not be attempted by inexperienced walkers in inclement weather.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There are frequent bus services to Rawtenstall from adjoining Lancashire towns and, in addition, from Manchester, Bury and Bolton. Also the stations in Rossendale on the Bury/Rawtenstall railway link up with the footpaths described in this walk.

PARKING: There is a car park at the starting point of the walk and there are a number of other car parks in the town centre.

Apart from the Rossendale Way itself, this walk is the longest to be described in this book. In view of its proximity to all the Rossendale stations on the Bury/Rawtenstall railway and the anticipation that many of the passengers will wish to do some walking and visit sites and buildings of interest, a variety of alternative footpaths are described. This is to enable long or short walks to be planned and, in addition, a town trail in Rawtenstall is also described and a plan showing this is illustrated in connection with walk No 4. Particular features of this walk are the pleasant stretches of river scenery, so unexpected in this former industrial area, and in contrast the vast expanses of wild moorland formerly much more populated than they are to-day being the scene of many collieries and quarries linked to the valley below with a network of tramways.

1 This walk starts at the car park adjacent to the Weavers' Cottage in Fallbarn Fold, which has been carefully restored by the Rawtenstall Civic Society as their headquarters.

This cottage, probably built in the late 18th century, is one of Rossendale's finest surviving examples of a "loomshop", which was a half-way house between the small handloom weaver's cottage and the mill. The two top storeys boast fine ranges of stone mullioned windows to allow maximum light for weaving together the fine woollen threads. When the weaving industry became organised in mills the handloom trade went into recession and had largely died out by the 1860's. Until the early 1970's another cottage backed on to the Weavers' Cottage and this was formerly the home of Maggie Allen, Rawtenstall's well-known murderess and one of the last women in England to be executed at Strangeways Jail in 1949 at the age of 42. She was a sad, strange character, who dressed up in men's clothes and wore close cropped hair. Her victim was Mrs Nancy Ellen Chadwick, aged 68, who was often dressed shabbily, yet nearly always carried wads of banknotes about, and her body was found late one night near Maggie's home by a group of Rawtenstall Corporation busmen who were returning home. The Bacup Road frontage of the Weavers' Cottage has been refaced by the Civic Society and the takin' in door to the top storey has been restored, together with a further door, at first floor level and new takin' in steps to gain access. The lodge on the north side of Bacup Road with fine carved gateposts dated "JAH 1864" formerly served Greenbank House, the former home of the Worswick family, now replaced by modern housing development.

Turn left and walk along Bacup Road towards the town centre.

A plaque in the wall adjacent to the cricket ground marks its presentation to the Rawtenstall Club by the Worswick family in 1958. Ilex Mill was built in 1856 by Peter Whitehead, one of the three manufacturing brothers. The adjoining mill houses have similar cornerstones to those of the mill and the street on to which they front is named after Peter.

Ignore Kay Street which branches off to the right and continue ahead along Bacup Road.

The Crown Hotel on the right is a good example of late Victorian architecture. Beyond is the Town Hall which, although quite an extensive building to-day, started off in quite a small way. Originally only the section on the corner of Lord Street was standing, being a share exchange and social club built by a limited liability company. It was then taken over by the local authority in 1890, in preparation for the Incorporation of the Borough of Rawtenstall in 1891. There were plans at one time to build a new Town Hall and some fine assembly rooms next to the library, but instead the old club building was extended in exactly the same style of architecture to join up with the old tram offices. A modern extension behind the Town Hall was opened in 1965. Beyond on the right is a former manse used as offices bearing the signs "Wesley Villa" and "EMS 1867" for Ebenezer Missionary Sugden.

Town Trail

RAWTENSTALL
buses, car park, toilets, hotels, inns, restaurants, PO, shops, tel
Bacup Road
Start of Walk
Bocholt Way
Haslingden Road
Asda
0 ¼ ½ Mile
Crown Copyright reserved
NEW HALL HEY
New Hall Hey Farm
HALL CARR
Middle Cog Farm
Hill End
Hurdles
Bury Road
Holme Bridge
TOWNSEND FOLD
School
Carr House
Lower Clowes
Site of Higher Clowes Mill
Site of Diamond Brickworks (dismantled)
Site of Holme Mill
Site of Balladen Mill
Bill Cote
Balladen Old Hall
Site of Higher Clowes Mill
Sheffield Gate
Hall Carr Head
Whinberry Naze
Site of scrubbing mill, etc
Hurdles Quarry (disused)
Higher Lench Farm
Carry Head
Brow Edge Quarry (disused)
New Barn
Rossendale Way
Lowe Lodge
Lowe End (ruin)
Lovely's Grave
Whitaker Pasture
Great Height Quarry
Lench Fold
Lowe Side (ruin)
Rossendale Way
Compe Lowe 1442
EWOOD BRIDGE
Hornclife Quarry (disused)
Hornclife Wood Farm
Woodcliffe
Ewood Hall
Hornclife House
Hornclife Top
Old clay pit
Hawks Clough Plantation (th' Oaks)
White Jones
Lower Mount Pleasant
Higher Mount Pleasant
Lower Cockham
River Goden
Sewage Works
Hollins Lane Farm
Dearden Moor
Sky House Farm (High House)
Site of Elton Banks Mill
Lower Carcroft (Windy Harbour)
Elton Banks Farm
Sand Beds Farm (ruin)
Sand Beds Lane
New Hall Close
Site of Brown Hill Close
Site of Back o' th' Lowe
Site of Bourden
Site of Slacks
Black Hill
Pike Hill
Puss Height
Site of Irwell Vale Mill
Hardsough Farm
IRWELL VALE
Grange House
Cockridge Bank Side
Site of Mount Maria
Hey Meadow
Site of Horncliffe Close
Scout Site of Ringleton Fold
Site of Fo Edge Farm
Moor Brook
Great Hey Farm
Great Hey House
Site of New Hall
Gin Croft Farm
Scout Moor Bottom (ruin)
Waughs Wet
Scout Moor High Level Reservoir
Fo Edge
Tottington Higher End Moor
LUMB
Site of Lumb Works
Alder Bottom
Chatterton Hey
EDENFIELD
buses, parking, Inns, PO, toilets, shops, tel
Plunge Farm
Site of Further Barn
Site of Colliery
Dearden Brook
Rooden
The Mount
Site of Plunge Mill
Bridge Mills
The Bungalow
Scout Moor Quarries (disused)
Scout Moor
Moss Top
Whittle Pike
Whittle Hill
gateposts
River Irwell
STRONGSTRY
Scout Fold
Lowes Farm Cottage
Lowes Farm
Cote Farm House
Grime Cote
dismantled tramway
Site of Great Lodge
Site of Mill
The Cuffe
Scout Barns
Site of Coal Staithe
dismantled tramway
Site of Scout Moor Colliery
Site of Colliery
New Gate
New Gate Brook
Rochdale Road
Old Road
CHATTERTON
Site of Reservoir
Site of Top of Grain Rake
Waterfall
STUBBINS
buses, Inn, parking, PO, shops, tel, Stubbins Station
Bleakholt Farm (Animal Sanctuary)
Acre Nook Farm
Bleakholt Road
Sheep Hey
A56
Rossendale Way
TURN
Cecil End Delf
Tramway
Top of th' Lea
Dry Gap
Windy Bank Farm
Lodge Mill
Holcombe Road
Rossendale Way
Fecit Hill
Cool Road
Limeleach
Smithy Carr Farm
Kay Close Farm
SHUTTLEWORTH
Fecit
Turf Moor
Cheesden Brook
79
80
81
82
83
18
19
20
21
22
51

Next to this is the stately Longholme Chapel built in 1842 at a cost of £7,000 with seating capacity at that time for 1,300 people. The Whitehead brothers contributed towards the cost of this building.

The old macadamed lane which crosses the path, running between the graveyard and the backs of the shops, is the route of the old road from Bury to Rawtenstall.

At the Bank Street end of this lane are three old buildings. In 1827 the Herbalist and Temperance Bar (now the last remaining of many thriving at the turn of the century) was a Toll Bar. The chip shop was a public house known as "One too Many" and the sandwich shop was a weighing machine house.

Continue ahead to the traffic lights pausing before crossing the road via the subway.

To the right is the Queen's Arms Hotel, a building which probably dates from the early part of the 19th century and was the only public house in the town which had stabling facilities when the Turnpike Acts came in. It also served in 1874 as the initial meeting place of the St Annes-on-the-Sea Land and Building Company. Across the dual carriageway, known as St Mary's Way, is St Mary's Church set amid trees and Memorial Gardens known locally as "Sparrow Park". It dates from 1836 and owes its existence largely to cotton and a boom in the population which led to the need for a new church nearer at hand than the churches at Haslingden, Goodshaw and Newchurch. The church was greatly remodelled in the 1880's by its third Vicar, the Rev James Norris, when the tower was transferred to the south west side. Beyond, overlooking a little garden, is the clock tower of Holly Mount School which the Whitehead brothers built in 1839 for the education of the children of their employees. Adjoining the clock tower is what remains of the Whitehead's Lower Mill complex and on the hill behind in a wooded setting is Holly Mount House built by the Whitehead brothers as three units in 1835 for their own use.

Pass under the subway turning right at the top of the steps at the far side.

The fine adjacent building is the library, paid for by the famous multi-millionaire Mr Andrew Carnegie who himself officially opened the building in 1907. This distinguished building was the result of an architectural competition and the concept was later copied by many larger and much wealthier towns.

Follow along the footpath into Haslingden Road.

The large traffic island to the left was built in the 1960's when the Edenfield bypass was constructed. Until these roadworks were implemented the derelict New Hall Hey House stood near the western end of the site occupied by the traffic island. This hall was probably built in Oliver Cromwell's time, though little is known of its early history. It was the home of the Nuttall family in the 17th century.

A little further on, on the right, is the United Methodist Free Church.

This building, which was commenced in 1856, is one of the town's most impressive pieces of architecture and presents an imposing sight to visitors even though its front steps were removed in 1936 as part of a road-widening scheme. David Whitehead laid the foundation stone, having left the Longholme Wesleyan Church in 1849. The Whitehead brothers were disenchanted with growing centralisation within the Wesleyan cause. It is possible, also, that they were afraid of losing their dominant position at Longholme Methodist. Its history as a church was comparatively short, the school to the rear now housing the Magistrates' Court and the tormer church serving as the headquarters of the Rawtenstall Old Age Pensioners Association. Opposite this old chapel stands the Rossendale College opened in 1956. It is an uninteresting building which has been improved by recent alterations and stands on the site of Captain Fold, an old part of the town.

Town Trail

Waterfall, Healey Dell, Whitworth - Ramble No 14

Rawtenstall and Rossendale Valley from Hawks Clough - Ramble No 9.

Cowpe Valley, Waterfoot - Ramble No 11.

Brown Wardle, Whitworth from above Fern Isle Wood - Ramble No 13.

Dearden Clough, Edenfield - Ramble No 9.

Dearden Clough, Edenfield - Ramble No 9.

Todmorden Old Road, Bacup - Ramble No 1.

Balladen Village, Rawtenstall - Ramble No 9.

Haslingden Grane Valley and the Ogden Reservoir - Ramble No 6.

Scout Moor High Level Reservoir, Edenfield - Ramble No 9.

The River Irwell near Chatterton - Ramble Nos 8 & 9.

Healey Dell, Whitworth - Ramble No 14.

Ogden Valley near Ravenshore, Haslingden - Ramble No 8.

River Ogden near Snig Hole, Haslingden - Ramble No 8.

Whitworth Square - Ramble Nos 14 & 15.

Doctors' Wood, Whitworth - Ramble No 13.

Continue ahead past the modern Mormon Church and some large Edwardian houses and the gates of Whitaker Park are soon reached.

The Museum and Art Gallery in Whitaker Park, which was opened in 1902, is housed in a typical Industrial Revolution mill owner's mansion of the mid 19th century. Formerly known as "Oakhill House" it was originally the home of the Hardman family, who owned New Hall Hey Mill and were engaged in the woollen industry. Mr Hardman bought the northern part of the parkland in 1840 from John Cockerill of the famous Haslingden family who took the Industrial Revolution to the Continent. "The Rossendale Room" in the museum houses many interesting items which give a realistic idea of life in the area during the 19th century. The park, which is very beautiful and extends to 28 acres, was given by Richard Whitaker in 1901 and he paid £5,000 to lay it out. In addition to the museum and art gallery he also gave the Alms houses opposite. Beyond the park is Spring Terrace and the Shepherd's Inn which for many years was the meeting place of the Society of Henpecked Husbands, which was founded in 1845, and where to-day bar snacks and meals are available.

2 Cross the road outside the park gates and take the footpath which leads down the hillside on the right-hand side of a detached Victorian villa called Park Gates. The path crosses a small meadow, passing through two gates at the bottom left-hand corner and down some steps to cross the Edenfield bypass to a further gate on the opposite side. The path turns right and then turns left alongside Swanny Lodge making for New Hall Hey Mill, or Hardman's Mill, ahead.

The path is waymarked by the symbol: 9

Hardman's Mill, together with its unique Campanile Style chimney, was built in the Italianate Style in 1861. The chimney, with its gallery, was saved from demolition in 1980 and remains as one of the valley's most outstanding landmarks. Nearby is the new Sprintman Club and the recently resited Rawtenstall Railway Station. This line was opened in 1846 and closed to passengers in 1972, continuing as a goods line for the transport of coal until the early 1980's. It is due to be reopened to passengers by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society.

Pass through the archway at the left-hand end of the mill and then through the mill yard to a small gate opposite New Hall Hey Farm giving access on to the bank of the River Irwell.

The farmhouse and barn, which is now used as the headquarters of Rossendale Groundwork, has a stone over the barn arch which bears the initials "HH 1856" standing for Henry Hoyle. Midway between the farm and the weir were once stepping stones across the river.

New Hall Hey House

After passing the weir and following alongside the river the hamlet of Holme is reached.

The cottages immediately to the left of the footpath were formerly a block of six back-to-back cottages which have now been knocked through and modernised. An old barn here has been nicely converted to form dwellings.

Turn left on to Holme Lane crossing the river.

Holme Bridge has a datestone "I & RT 1830" on the parapet and the building adjacent to the level crossing has a datestone "JJ & RT 1865". The initials refer to John & Richard Townsend and Joshua, John & Richard Townsend.

3 Turn right on to a macadamed road immediately before the level crossing. Follow this road round to the front of K Steels passing through a narrow footpath opening to the right of the main gates to the factory. The path now follows along the front edge of K Steels' boundary then to the right of the building parallel with the river to an uncared for area beyond.

This is the site of Holme Mill. Some of the setts from the mill yard remain as do some of the large stone flags marking the actual site of the mill buildings. On the east of the railway line and to the south of the footpath crossing is located the site of the Diamond Brickworks which operated for only a short period between 1899 and 1903. A few yards further south is the line of the dismantled tramway incline which was used to carry stone down from Horncliffe Quarry for transportation further afield by train.

Make straight ahead to a gap between some shrubs and the footpath along the river bank will be easily picked up. After crossing a stile the footpath follows the river round the bend over a further stile, past a weir and under the large bridge which carries the Edenfield bypass. The path now follows closely along the river to Ewood Bridge.

Ewood Bridge means the "Irwell Bridge near the wood". The two-arched bridge is very interesting being rebuilt when the railways came up the valley about 1846. It was built on top of the old bridge arches constructed about 1790 when the Haslingden section of the turnpike road was built by John Metcalfe who was known as "Blind Jack of Knaresborough". It is almost a bridge upon a bridge and worth close inspection for the many masons' marks.

The path climbs steeply up to the left-hand end of the bridge parapet going up a flight of steps on to the road. Cross the road and descend by a further flight of steps to a footpath which follows round the western perimeter of the Haslingden Football Club's ground. Pause just beyond the clubhouse and look across the river to the right at the lovely east elevation of Ewood Hall.

Ewood Hall has a 1647 datestone and the initials "CG & IG". It is believed to have belonged to a family named either Gregory or Garside and the building may even go back to about 1550. The house boasts the story of a ghostly Nun and voices resembling the sound of singing choristers are said to have been heard in a corner of the living room. Talk about the ghostly Nun probably stems from a local legend that centuries ago a Nun was bricked up in the house and left to die. In the garden is a headstone marking the grave of Topsy, a dog that died in the 1880's. The land to the south of Ewood Hall belongs to the North West Water Authority and is the site of the Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup Sewage Works which was opened in 1898 and modernised in 1966.

Pass under the railway bridge and over a stile to continue alongside the river. After passing over three further stiles pass under another railway bridge and a further stile turning sharp left to follow alongside the railway embankment passing through a gate.

Turn right into Irwell Vale Village. **4**

Irwell Vale was designated a conservation area by Rossendale Borough Council in the mid 1970's, being a good example of a Lancashire mill village. The road off to the left leads up to a proposed halt on the Bury/Rawtenstall Railway. Note the

interesting village sign and nearby a former Primitive Methodist Chapel dated 1853 now converted into dwellings. The bridge spanning the River Irwell is probably early 19th century with a later top. Bowker and Aitken Streets were named after the original occupier and owner of the mill. The present Irwell Vale Mill houses W & E Products Ltd, soap manufacturers.

Turn left into Bowker Street.

The single arched bridge carrying the main road over the River Ogden into the village also probably dates from the early 19th century and is interesting for its stone flagged parapets. Note the 1833 datestone on the cottages on the right-hand side of Bowker Street. The original mill which stood behind the cottages has now been demolished. The Methodist Church at the southern end of Bowker Street forms an attractive focal point and the building immediately to the west was once a Co-operative store.

Proceed along the road at the side of the church then pass between two stone gateposts on the right-hand side and cross a stile leading into a field adjacent to the garden of a house.

This dwelling was formerly the works canteen for the mill and the lawn was originally a bowling green.

The path follows along the boundary of the garden and crosses a stone footbridge into a meadow running roughly parallel with the river to a gate at the right-hand end of Lumb Bridge. This path can be wet at times.

Sluice gates and a shallow weir on the left conducted water underground to a lodge beyond Lumb Old Hall.

Here it is worthwhile making a short detour by proceeding along the road under the former railway viaduct into Lumb Village.

This viaduct carried the Stubbins/Accrington railway line which opened in 1846 and closed in 1966.

5

Detour

Lumb Old Hall

Originally Lumb comprised only the old hall and a farm. In recent years the farmhouse has been restored and renamed "Lumb Manor House" and the various farm buildings have been attractively restored to form additional dwellings. Lumb Old Hall, which was built by the Rosthorne family, with its well preserved "cruck" truss is probably the oldest building remaining in Rossendale. The building we see today dates from 1482 and is the two-storey service wing of the main range of buildings, which stood to the west of it, dating from about 1280. The huge "cruck" timbers still carry the marks from tools used to fell and shape them 500 years ago.

Retrace your steps back to Lumb Bridge.

Lumb Bridge is an attractive two-arched structure dating from the 18th century.

5 Turn right on to the footpath at the east end of Lumb Bridge adjacent to the boundary fence of the garden to the adjoining house. A short distance further on two pipes cross the river on a metal bridge. At this point turn sharp left to pass through the subway under the railway line and then up to a stile. The path now follows alongside the embattled wall of the railway line. After passing over a further stile and then a stile at the side of a gate two Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway boundary stones will be seen on rising ground to the left, marking the extent of the land owned by the railway company. The path ahead appears to climb up a slight hill towards the gable end of Alder Bottom which is just visible. Ignore this path and continue alongside the railway to a gate then following outside the perimeter of the garden to Alder Bottom. This section of the path is usually wet at all times. The path crosses a small footbridge heading towards the river bank alongside a post and wire fence to the left.

Alder Bottom, which dates from the 19th century, has been restored and extended in recent times. It has a datestone "ATP rebuilt 1900". Behind the high metal viaduct of the former Stubbins/Accrington railway line will be seen in a wooded setting. To the right the cottages of Strongstry Village come into view. This is possibly the loveliest stretch of river footpath in the whole of Rossendale and is as attractive as many of the river walks in the Yorkshire Dales.

The path now follows alongside the river, passing over a number of stiles and then through a gate into Chatterton Village, adjacent to a footbridge over the River Irwell.

Here an alternative path may be taken by turning right along the Rossendale Way across the River Irwell into Strongstry Village leaving the Rossendale Way just beyond the first cottages on the left to follow along the west bank of the river to join the Rossendale Way again at the southern end of Chatterton Village. A further alternative is to turn right along the Rossendale Way passing through Strongstry Village under the railway bridges and leaving the Rossendale Way turning left past Stubbins Vale Mill and the Stubbins railway station to visit Stubbins Village off to the right which is an attractive mill village. **6**

Stubbins Village was developed by the Porritt family in the second half of the 19th century, although some of the cottages predate the Industrial Revolution.

Turn left on to the Rossendale Way which passes through Chatterton Village. **6**

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol: RW

Chatterton and the adjoining Strongstry Village were designated a conservation area by Rossendale Borough Council in the mid 1970's. On the site of the recreation ground to the right formerly stood Mr Aitken's mill, associated with the famous Chatterton Riot. In 1826 a crowd of men and women, being of the opinion, as many were at that time, that the installation of power looms would deprive them of their livelihood, entered Mr Aitken's mill and destroyed the machinery. The soldiers were called out and Mr William Grant (one of the Cheeryble Brothers) read the riot act. The crowd threw stones at the soldiers who then fired. Nine men and a woman

were killed and a large number were wounded. Some of the rioters were imprisoned and others were deported to Australia. Chatterton is a collection of largely 19th century cottages with a few older and some more recent houses. On the right is Stubbins Church, a pleasant building dating from 1926 with the name of Mrs Austin T Porritt on the foundation stone.

Bolton Road adjacent to the bridge over the River Irwell is soon reached. Here the alternative path joins the Rossendale Way and Stubbins railway station is nearby.

7 Cross over Bolton Road and take the track ahead keeping the river immediately on the right. Soon the track becomes macadamed and starts to climb turning sharp left. Sheep Hey soon comes into view.

Sheep Hey is obviously of historical significance. The rear portion is doubtless the original building containing some mullioned windows, the western portion dating from Victorian times. Adjacent to Sheep Hey are some fine examples of stone flag walling. Note the "skew-whiff" setts in the entrance to the farm yard and the fine range of farm buildings. In an outbuilding wall is a datestone "KIA 1728". This stands for John Kay (1704-1780). There are many buildings in, and around, Shuttleworth and Walmersley built by the Kay family.

At Sheep Hey turn right on to a macadamed lane known as Leaches Lane, which crosses the sunken section of the M66 motorway.

A property nearby known as Lower Leaches, from which the lane takes its name, was demolished to make way for the motorway.

The Rossendale Way soon turns right on to Whalley Road.

Whalley Road is part of the turnpike road between Bury and Rawtenstall which was constructed in 1801. Nearby is the Duckworth Arms where bar snacks and meals are available.

It leaves Whalley Road via a stile at the end of the first block of properties on the left.

The land through which the path now passes belongs to the Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary and many retired horses, ponies and donkeys may be seen hereabouts. Visitors are welcome to see the many animals which live here.

Keep the stone wall immediately on the right and after crossing three further stiles turn left on to Bury Old Road.

Bury Old Road is part of an ancient highway which can be traced from Bury to Rawtenstall and which was in use until the new turnpike road was built at the beginning of the 19th century.

In a few yards turn right into Bleakholt Road and Turn Village is soon reached. Turn right on to Rochdale Road.

The white Plane Tree Inn provides bar snacks and meals. In the summer months afternoon teas are also available in the garden.

Lodge Lane, with Lodge Mill and cottages beyond, soon branches off to the right. A little further on to the left a new drive leads up to a restored farmhouse standing on elevated ground above a retaining wall. Abreast of the restored farmhouse the Rossendale Way takes the flight of steps leading up to a stile below the building. The path then passes to the west of the building up to a farm gate at the rear with a footpath gate to the left. Pass through the small gate and turn sharp right on to a grassy track which keeps alongside a Hawthorn hedge.

Note Lime Leach below which was obviously an 18th century loomshop and the superb takin' in steps to the eastern gable still remain.

The next section of the Rossendale Way can be wet underfoot at times.

This green track was originally an important road for transporting coal in the early part of the 19th century from the collieries on Scout Moor until the tramway system linking the collieries with Turn Village was built. Scout Moor Colliery on the moors to the left was started about 1800 and finally closed in the 1960's.

The path is soon more easy to follow becoming a clearly defined green track

Rossendale Way

and a little further on crossing the open moorland and gradually climbing round the shoulder of Scout Moor. A well defined track joins from the right. Pause here and look at the extensive view.

To the right of the Rossendale Way is the upper part of the Cheesden Valley which was once filled with water mills and there are many remains of these mills still evident. To the south east the remains of one of the former mill reservoirs can be seen. To the south the New Inn and Owd Betts, named after a former landlady, Betty Ashworth, two well known local hostelries can be seen against the back cloth of Ashworth Reservoir which was built between 1902 and 1908 by the Heywood and Middleton Water Board. At both the New Inn and Owd Betts bar snacks and meals are available. Behind to the west there is a good view of the Rossendale Valley, with Ramsbottom below and the village of Holcombe above, dominated by the Peel Monument, or Holcombe Tower. This was erected to the memory of the second Sir Robert Peel, a great Statesman and one time Premier, to commemorate the services he rendered in connection with the repeal of the Corn Laws. The monument was built in 1852 by public subscription at a cost of £900.

The Rossendale Way ahead is now clear to follow still gradually climbing round the shoulder of Scout Moor to the left. Soon a well maintained stone wall appears on the right of the track.

Adjacent to the start of this wall is a boundary stone with the initials "HM WB" marking the extent of the land originally owned by the Heywood and Middleton Water Board. To the left on the slopes of Scout Moor was formerly a reservoir which was operating about the turn of the century.

Eventually the wall ends.

Here is a fine view of the wild upper Cheesden Valley to the right.

Lime Leach - before alteration

Rossendale Way

A little further on to the left is the site of a former property known as "Top of Grain Rake" and to the right below the track is a waterfall. Beyond on the right there is evidence of some coalmining and there is the remains of a track going down to these workings. The Rossendale Way climbs out on to the open moorland. Soon over to the left a cross marking the summit of Whittle Pike comes into view.

This cross is thought to be to the memory of a local scout leader but the plaque has gone.

As the track reaches the summit of the Cheesden Valley it becomes less clear and the wet ground to the right marks the site of Great Lodge.

The dam of Great Lodge was removed by the North West Water Authority in 1984. Great Lodge was constructed about 1840 by John Haworth, a farmer from Croston Close, who together with the Ashworths and Ramsbottoms had developed the mills in the Cheesden Valley some years earlier. Great Lodge was built to overcome the problem of an irregular flow of water since when stormwater flooded down the valley to turn the wheels the workers were called from their beds to work long hours at their machines. Once the Great Lodge was completed John Haworth did try to hold the other mill owners to ransom by keeping the sluices closed, but later relented, and Great Lodge was, in fact, used and provided a valuable service in regulating the work of the mills.

Just beyond the summit of the path two free standing gateposts mark the route of the Rossendale Way and close by is another Heywood and Middleton Water Board boundary stone. Pause on the summit and look back at the extensive view.

On a clear day Greater Manchester is clearly visible with the hills of the Peak District National Park beyond. Ahead is an extensive area of wild moorland.

The path gradually descends into a valley keeping a stone wall immediately on the left. A little stream runs parallel with the path to the right at the bottom of a steep embankment. The hills of the

Waugh's Well

West Pennine Moors area, to the west of Haslingden, soon come into view. The path crosses a footbridge over the stream, at a point where there is an impressive gorge falling away to the left. The path ahead is clearly evident gradually climbing up over the shoulder of the open moorland. Shortly Scout Moor High Level Reservoir comes into view far below with spectacular scenery embracing Cowpe Lowe and the lower Rossendale Valley.

The Scout Moor High Level Reservoir was built by the Bury and District Joint Water Board between 1903 and 1910 and is dated 1909.

Shortly the path crosses a ravine which falls away to the left and then drops below the end of a high stone wall, which climbs up the hillside. At this point Cowpe Lowe dominates the view of the path ahead. A few yards further on is Waugh's Well located on the right-hand side of the Rossendale Way.

Edwin Waugh, who was a prolific writer of stories and poems in the Lancashire dialect, was born in Rochdale in 1817 and died at New Brighton in 1890. He frequently stayed at the nearby Fo Edge Farm with the Taylor family and he thought out and wrote some of his

Rossendale Way

ideas at the spring which is now known as Waugh's Well. The well was officially opened in 1866. There is a bronze figurehead of Edwin Waugh with the dates 1817-1890. On the left-hand side there is a plaque which reads "Rebuilt in 1966 in memory of Ward Ogden, naturalist and rambler", and at the right-hand side is a bronze plaque which reads "In memory of Harry Craven - Ross Endale 1907-1971".

The path continues straight ahead with the remains of a stone wall on the left-hand side. The open area, with a mound of stone and red brick, marks the site of Fo Edge Farm.

"Fo" means "Fall" and Fo Edge Farm which had been derelict for some years was demolished by the North West Water Authority in 1979. A famous historical site had fallen; many people regretted the fact.

Pass through a gate to continue ahead on a more clearly defined track.

On the right-hand side are the remains of Fourden and Slacks and on the hillside above the embankment of a dismantled tramway can be clearly seen forming a reversing track.

Soon the paths divide, an alternative return route to the left being described first whilst the main route along the Rossendale Way continues ahead through the gate with two substantial timber gate posts.

8 The first section of this track descends very gradually and to the left is the site of Back o' th' Lowe.

Between 1790 and 1800 Wesleyan meetings were held at Back o' th' Lowe.

Soon the track descends more rapidly and the steeper sections have been surfaced in concrete by the North West Water Authority since this is the main means of vehicular access to Scout Moor High Level Reservoir. To the left, near the first concrete section, is the site of Brown Hill Close. Pause near the stile at the cattle grid to look at the fine view of the lower Rossendale Valley dominated by the Peel Monument. To the left the valley of the Dearden Brook falls away steeply.

Across this valley the line of the dismantled tramway can be easily picked out and beyond the disused Scout Moor Quarries which were reopened when the M66 was built in the early 1970's.

After a rapid descent the track bends round to the left in front of the water works buildings. Here take the footpath to the right passing through the small gate to the left of a gate leading into a field.

Here there is an alternative link path to the historic hamlet of Balladen by continuing ahead alongside the wall to the right, passing through a gate and turning right on to Bury Old Road. This path then passes below Lower Carcroft, formerly known as Windy Harbour, from which there are fine views of the valley and Horncliffe House below. The path proceeds via Horncliffe Top along the line of Bury Old Road to Lomas Lane. **15**

Horncliffe House was built by the Hardman family in the second half of the 19th century. It is now an old people's home.

Turn left alongside a high wall formerly the boundary of New Hall, which was once a Royal Hunting Lodge. **15**

Note the two old water troughs in the field. Little remains of New Hall to-day. It stood in ruins for many years and dated back to 1478 when it was purchased by a branch of the Rosthorne family. Two members of the family were High Sheriffs of Lancaster and another member of the family defended Lathom Hall near Ormskirk against the Roundheads during the Civil War. In 1665 the hall had a visitation of the plague brought back by a servant after a stay in London. There is a dome shaped mass burial mound behind the site of the hall.

Cross the macadamed road via a gate and proceed straight ahead along the edge of the woodland. Where the boundary of the woodland veers away to the left continue straight forward through a clearing in the trees, turning left on to a track at the end of the pine trees.

Note the footpath ahead leading to Plunge Farm with a fine example of

New Hall, Edenfield

stone flag walling alongside it. The track which the path now follows is part of the original Bury Old Road and this section of it is to-day known as Michael Wife Lane.

This old highway shortly crosses the Dearden Brook via a ford where to-day there is also a footbridge.

This stretch of the stream is very pleasant and well known as a local beauty spot.

Do not cross the stream but turn right on to the path which runs to the north of the brook.

Note the overgrown lodge immediately on the left with Bullrushes in it. This originally supplied water to power Plunge Mill, which was a woollen mill operating at least between 1844 and 1895 sited where the wooded area now is immediately to the west of the lodge.

Pass through a gate to a macadamed road leading from Plunge Farm.

Note the stone flag wall behind The Mount; also the carved faces above the bay windows of the property itself.

A further gate gives access on to a fine setted section of road in front of the property known as "The Mount" which dates partly from the 18th century. Turn left on to Rochdale Road adjacent to Bridge Mills and in a few yards turn right at the bottom of the dip on to a footpath passing through a gate and a mill yard leading on to a lane known as Dearden Clough.

To the left an open air swimming bath operated about 1900 supplied with water from the Plunge. Note the cottages to the left which probably originally had cellar dwellings with more storeys at the back than the front.

Turn right on to Bury Road. In a few yards turn left on to an unsurafced lane with a footpath sign. After passing Lane End Farm the lane becomes attractively wooded passing the properties known as Lane End and Croft Hey. To the left the valley is attractive with a fine example of a mill lodge and after passing under the bridge carrying the A56 trunk road the path passes alongside and under a mill before veering round to the right to pass under the M66 motorway. The next section of path is through an attractive wooded glen with lodges and a mill to the left and two new houses to the right. Bolton Road is soon joined a few yards from the bridge over the River Irwell and the Rossendale Way (7). From here the return footpath along the river to Rawtenstall can be taken or, alternatively, there is a frequent bus service to either Rawtenstall or the Greater Manchester area and a train service is operated by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society.

A stone wall runs immediately along the left of the Rossendale Way. Soon a track branches off to the right and then a point is reached where a number of tracks join including the line of the dismantled tramway, which at this point ran on an embankment. Take the left-hand track which soon shows evidence of an old highway.

Here there are two lines of causey stones and smaller stone setts between. Some of the stones are well rutted and others not so much so, which could indicate that certain of the stone flags may have been turned over to extend their life, perhaps at the start of the quarrying era.

Soon the stone wall again runs along the left-hand side of the Rossendale Way and to the right the line of the dismantled tramway runs parallel along the foot of Cowpe Lowe. The line of the tramway soon crosses the old highway and then descends into a small cutting, probably to allow a bridge over into Sand Beds Lane.

This tramway system, which linked the quarries with the main railway line at Cloughfold, was developed by the

Brooks family of Crawshawbooth soon after the main railway line up the valley was opened.

Look out for a lane striking off across the cutting to the left. This is the second alternative return route which is now described. The Rossendale Way continues ahead across a stile.

9 This track is known as "Sand Beds Lane" and is probably the route which the old highway originally took long before the quarrying days. Initially the track passes through a wider enclosure and after crossing a stile it becomes more clearly defined running in a deep cutting, the footpath running along the top of the right-hand side.

The cutting has been formed by traffic wearing away the ground over the years. Through a gap in the wall to the right there is a fine view of Higher Mount Pleasant and the Rawtenstall area beyond.

Pause before crossing the next stile to look at the fine view with the ruins of Sand Beds Farm in the foreground and the lower Rossendale Valley beyond. Just before Sand Beds Farm the road to Higher Mount Pleasant comes in from the right. Beyond the ruins of Sand Beds Farm the lane, which is now more clearly defined, passes through a gateway.

16 Here beyond the gateway alongside a wall on the right is an alternative link path to the historic hamlet of Balladen, which passes along the top of Hawks Clough from which there are fine views over Rawtenstall, then round the perimeter of an old clay pit through a gate on to Lomas Lane passing the remains of a property known as "Sheffield Gate".

Hawks Clough known locally as "Th' Oaks", is said to be one of the few surviving remains of the old Forest of Rossendale. Note the quarry waste tipping almost in the form of a bird's foot. Near Sheffield Gate, formerly two 18th century cottages, is the remains of a passage under the lane which was connected with the tramway system for transporting clay to the Diamond Brickworks.

Two lines of causey stones are visible on this section of the lane. Pass over a ladder stile to the left of the gate and in a few yards through a gate on to the open moor where the lane descends more steeply. A further gate gives access on to Bury Old Road. Turn left. **16**

Here there is an alternative link path to the historic hamlet of Balladen by turning to the right along Bury Old Road. This path then passes below Lower Carcroft, formerly known as Windy Harbour, from which there are fine views of the valley and Horncliffe House below. **17**

Horncliffe House was built by the Hardman family in the second half of the 19th century.

The path continues via Horncliffe Top along the route of the Old Road to Balladen.

A large stone in the entrance drive to Horncliffe Top has two square holes cut out. These, local folklore has it, were for the feet of gallows erected here in full and prominent view. Hence the name of the field below "Scaffold Meadow". Horncliffe Top was the original Quarrymans Inn and has a 1681 datestone.

In a few yards pass over a stile to the right which leads on to a grassy walled lane descending steeply and quickly opening out into a meadow. Follow the left-hand wall round which quickly leads to a stile to the left of Hey Meadow. Turn sharp right descending some steps on to a lane past the front of Hey Meadow. **17**

Hey Meadow is an attractive property largely dating from the 18th century.

Edenfield Village is quickly reached.

Note the ancient well a few yards to the left in Market Street. The church opposite, which is unusual for not having a dedication, is well worth a visit being an exceptionally unspoilt example of an 18th century church dating from 1778 with some fine box pews. The tower is earlier dating from about 1614. The village is attractive having a number of cottages which predate the Industrial Revolution. For those requiring refreshments there are four inns to

choose from namely, the Coach and Horses, Horse and Jockey, The Packhorse and the Rostron Arms at which bar snacks and meals are available.

Turn right on to Market Street and left down the lane just beyond the church.

On the left in a wooded setting, adjacent to the bypass, is a Victorian building, which was formerly the Vicarage to the Parish Church, dated 1850.

Cross the bridge over the Edenfield bypass, then turn right on to a track which soon terminates at a gateway. From here a footpath descends the hillside, to the right of a stone wall, crossing a stile and a level crossing leading into Irwell Vale (4). .From here the return footpath along the river to Rawtenstall can be taken or, alternatively, maybe a train service operated by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society.

9 The Rossendale Way cuts straight across a green meadow to join the tramway at a stile whilst the former tramway itself having ascended from the cutting takes a large loop to the left.

10 Here the third alternative return route branches off just beyond the stile over the moorland to the left towards the right-hand end of a wall. There are two alternative paths from this point, the first being to pass over a stile to the left of a gate adjacent to the corner of the wall.

This leads on to a well defined track which passes Lower Mount Pleasant, where maggotts for fishing are produced and White Jones to Carr Head. The second alternative is to continue ahead past the end of the wall, past a sheep enclosure and through a gate. Now head downhill diagonally across a pasture to a stile. Beyond the stile pass through a gap in the wall leading on to the quarry road which quickly descends to Carr Head with fine views of the valley beyond.

Having passed through a gate the track **12** quickly descends with a wall to the right and a meadow to the left. Where the track becomes walled on both sides look out for a stile to the left.

Take this path which passes through a **13** meadow with a wall to the right soon entering the hamlet of Balladen behind the Old Hall via a stone stile to the right of a gate.

The Old Hall, which is split into two dwellings, has a datestone "1687 RAS' but has unfortunately lost some of its mullioned windows in recent years. A barn near the Old Hall has a datestone "HIM 1714". To the south of the hall are the remains of the lodge to Balladen Higher Mill. The sluice and arch for the water culvert still remain. David Whitehead and his two brothers started in business on their own account in 1815 and they occupied Balladen Higher Mill. This mill appears to have worked until 1878. The adjacent block of cottages has a

Balladen Old Hall - before alterations

datestone "IAW 1750" built into the west gable and facing it Oak Villa has a fine original iron gate and an 1873 datestone. Beyond Horncliffe Mount has a datestone "J 1778 D". Wesleyan meetings were held in Balladen as early as 1790 and at that time the village had several handloom weavers. Balladen Mill appears to have worked until about 1895 and the mill house which adjoined it still survives. In 1825 the Whiteheads moved their manufacturing enterprise from Balladen to Higher Mill in Rawtenstall.

18 Cross Lomas Lane and leave Balladen via a footpath running alongside the site of Balladen Mill, which is now pleasantly wooded, and over a stile continuing straight ahead across a meadow.

Where the path dips down there are some causey stones which are not of any great antiquity. On the hill to the left just inside the quarry area was located the old hamlet of Horncliffe.

After crossing a stile, there are fine views across the valley to the right with the lodge and site of Higher Clowes Mill below. On passing through a gate to the right the path quickly descends alongside a garden down some steps turning right on to a cinder track, past some garages, then turning left past a gate leading into Lower Clowes Village.

In the third cottage on the left William Roache, who plays Ken Barlow in Coronation Street, once lived. He had to knock down the mill chimney before he built the tall extension at the rear. The attractive new dwellings beyond on the left stand on the site of the former Lower Clowes Mill.

The macadamed Lower Clowes Road soon joins Bury Road.

Look over the wall to the left at the attractive mill lodge, now laid out as a private garden. A few yards to the left on Bury Road is the Whitchaff Inn, formerly known as the "Hare & Hounds", where bar snacks and meals are available.

Turn right on to Bury Road and first left into Holme Lane where the riverside walk is joined (3) only a short distance from Rawtenstall.

Cross the stile and continue ahead along the low embankment of the dismantled tramway. At Lowe Lodge the Rossendale Way leaves the tramway branching off to the right alongside the lodge. **19**

Lowe Lodge was built to supply the Myrtle Grove Works between Cloughfold and Waterfoot.

Continue along the line of the dismantled tramway soon crossing a stile. **20**

There are fine views ahead of Pendle Hill and to the left Hameldon Hill dominated by three masts.

After passing through (or around the side of) a gate bear round to the left through a gap in an enbankment.

The spoil heaps and remains of walls etc. which you now see ahead of you form possibly one of the most important sites in the whole of Rossendale from an industrial archaeology point of view. For here was located the incline winding house, a workshop, scrubbing mill, boiler house and six cottages which in effect formed the nerve centre of the narrow gauge tramway system which comprised some eleven miles of track linking Ding, Cragg and other quarries via the incline to the main line at Cloughfold which altogether made up one of the largest quarry enterprises in the whole of the country. The cottages were occupied by a number of the employees and their families and among other things enabled the work force to be transported up and down the incline from Cloughfold each work day.

Continue ahead to a stile in a wall.

To the left of the stile it is clearly evident where the line of the old tramway has been walled up. A few yards beyond the stile, on the ground to the left, is an old locomotive instruction stone.

The path follows along the line of the dismantled tramway through a small cutting. The path soon runs along the

crest of Whinberry Naze with fine views of Rawtenstall and the Rossendale Valley below. Hall Carr Head with its new farm buildings, appears below and at the end of the tramway a footpath heads down towards Carr Head.

12 Here turn right on to a farm track passing through a gate. The lane quickly descends with a wall to the right and a meadow to the left.

13 The lane soon becomes walled on both sides with a stream running alongside, being known as "New Barn Lane". Bill Cote, now renamed "Hilpsford Farm", is on the left. A little further on bear right on to Lomas Lane. The first large stone house on the right is Carr House and behind it is Carr Farm.

In the front garden of Carr House is a grave which has a carved skull and cross-bones and the following simple statement: "The Remains of Richard Ashworth Here rest in Hope. He was born Feb 22 1677 died May 28 1751". Richard Ashworth was the Baptist Minister at Cloughfold for 52 years. For a number of years before he died he had to be helped into the pulpit because he had become completely blind.

Proceed down Lomas Lane turning right on to Bury Road. After crossing the bridge over the River Irwell turn right over the footbridge past the Asda Superstore.

14 *This footbridge formerly served the old Longholme Mill, which stood on the site of the Asda Superstore, providing pedestrian access for employees who lived in the New Hall Hey and Townsend Fold areas. From the footbridge notice the weir and sluice gates which fed water to New Hall Hey Mill.*

The footpath then runs parallel to Bocholt Way crossing over the old packhorse bridge into Longholme Road, alongside the Limy Water, to Bacup Road.

Bocholt Way runs on the site of the former railway line to Waterfoot and Bacup which was opened in 1848 and closed in 1966. It takes its name from Bocholt, the town in Germany with which Rossendale is twinned. The packhorse bridge which probably dates from the 18th century, or earlier, carried the old road from Bury to Rawtenstall across the river at this point. To the right in the Longholme shed the clatter of the looms could be heard until spinning finally ceased in 1984.

Turn right on to Bacup Road and the starting point is soon reached.

Ramble No 10

From Cloughfold around the Shoulder of Whitaker Pasture to Waterfoot, Newchurch, and Higher Cloughfold

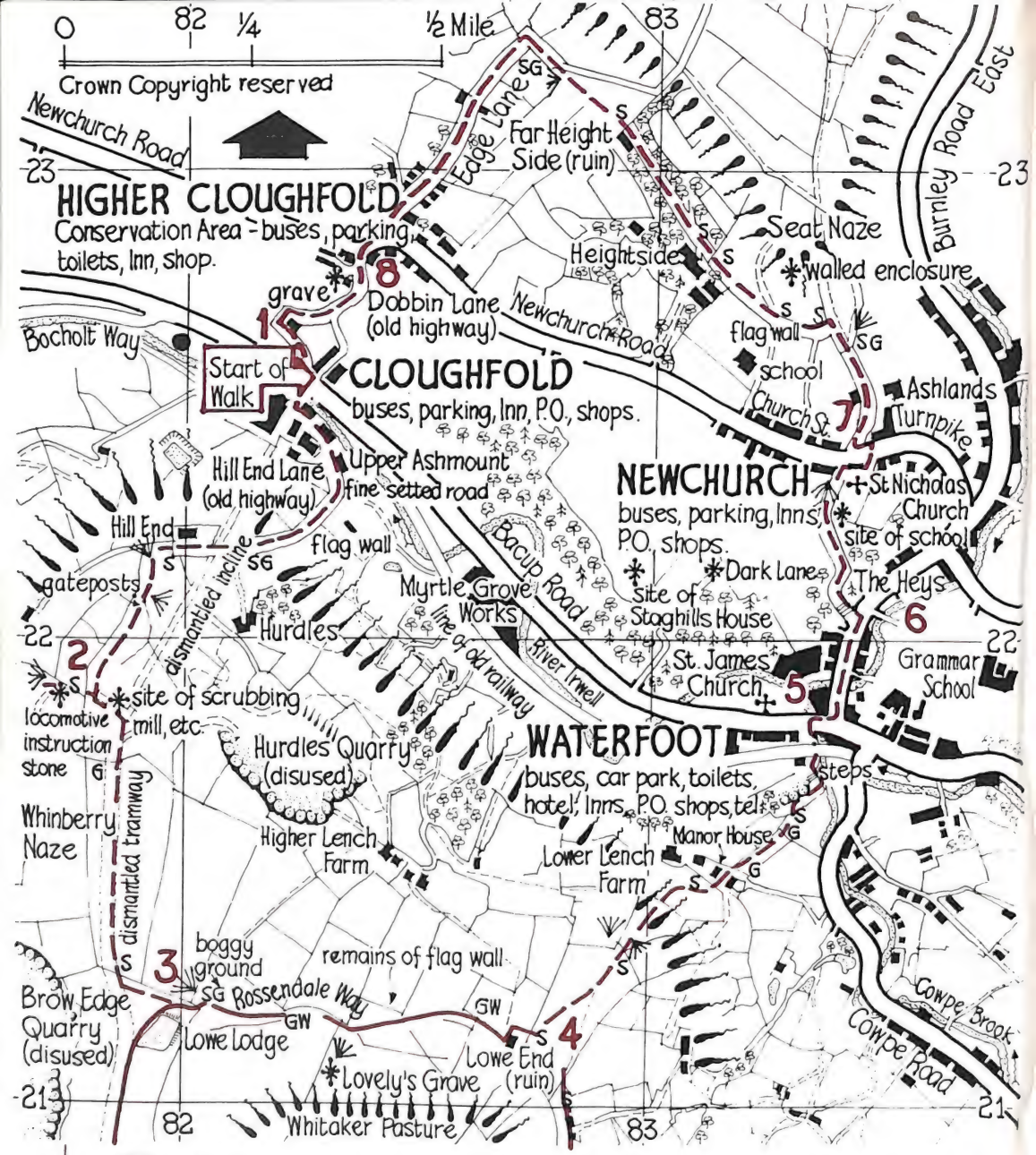
DISTANCE: Approximately five miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Three and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The paths are all well defined, although the route involves a fairly steep climb from Cloughfold up to Whinberry Naze and a more gentle climb from Waterfoot up to the shoulder of Seat Naze.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service between Rawtenstall, Waterfoot and Bacup.

PARKING: There is usually plenty of room to park adjacent to the properties on the north side of Bacup Road. At week-ends, when the factories are not operating, there is room for parking at the beginning of Hill End Lane. Please make sure you do not obstruct access by careless parking.



Particular features of this walk are the delightful views and countryside above the built-up valley below. The path traverses wild moorland and the line of mineral tramways and in contrast passes through old villages and the wooded environment of an industrialist's estate.

1 Cross on to the south side of Bacup Road and proceed along Hill End Lane pausing for a moment at the bridge which crosses the River Irwell.

The landscaped area between the road and the river was formerly occupied by the railway line which operated in 1848

and closed in 1966. Cloughfold Railway Station occupied the land immediately to the west between Hill End Lane and the Woodfield Engineering factory.

After crossing the river turn sharp left in the small industrial area.

The original Victoria Works now belonging to Smith & Nephew were built in 1860 and the adjoining houses in Victoria Street are doubtless part of the same scheme.

10 The path is waymarked with the symbol.

The road narrows and starts to climb towards the property known as Upper Ashmount as it leaves the industrial area.

Note the attractive cast iron railings which the two top properties in Upper Ashmount still retain to their front gardens.

Here the road starts to climb very steeply bending sharply to the right.

Note the beautiful paving with sandstone setts and diagonal drainage channels and a little further on the fine example of stone flag walling, complete with metal cramps to hold the individual flags together. This was an economical and comparatively cheap form of walling at the time quarrying in the area was at its peak. Fine views soon begin to emerge. We are now on an old highway which went over the hills to Rochdale and to the north it went via Dobbin Lane to Higher Cloughfold and thence over the hill to Lumb.

Pass over a stile at the side of a gate at the point where a farm road goes off to the left to Hurdles. The path is now pleasant and grassy, soon crossing the line of the dismantled tramway incline which is clearly evident.

This incline was probably one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century Rossendale which was developed, soon after the main railway line up the valley was opened, by the Brooks family of Crawshawbooth to link a 3 feet wide narrow gauge railway system across the moors from their various quarries with the main railway line in the valley below. The incline was worked on a system of gravity - as loaded trucks went down they pulled up empty trucks with a long cable via a pulley at the top. Although there were a number of other similar inclines in Rossendale this one is by far the longest and latterly three coaches were used to transport the quarrymen up and down from Cloughfold before it was finally abandoned in 1919.

At Hill End cross over a stile. The path here can be a little boggy at times.

Just beyond Hill End pause for a short time to admire the view up the valley to the north west. The pinnacles on the tower of St John's Church at Crawshawbooth come into view and to the left of this church the extensive woodlands of Crawshaw Hall. During the winter months the hall itself, formerly the home of the Brooks family from 1831 until 1975, is clearly visible.

The path now turns sharply to the left and continues to climb steeply, with a high stone wall immediately on the right, making towards two freestanding stone gateposts on the skyline ahead.

At these gateposts pause once more and enjoy the panoramic view of the valley to the east. The most distant range of moors marks the boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire. In the middle distance is the township of Waterfoot dominated by the steeple of the Church of St James the Great. Over to the left on the hillside is the old village of Newchurch.

The path gradually levels out and some spoil heaps soon appear to the left. Keep close to the wall on the right looking out for a stile.

Pass over the stile in order to visit the viewpoint for a birds'-eye panorama of the lower Rossendale Valley.

A few yards from the stile on the ground to the left is the old locomotive instruction stone, with the crude carving "N 13.10½ MILL", and beyond it a level grassy track goes left through a small stone cutting. This is the site of a branch tramway which ran along the edge of the moor into Brow Edge Quarry.

2 Detour

Keep close to the wall on the right and after passing over some spoil heaps the fine viewpoint with Rawtenstall far below is soon reached, a spot sometimes used by hang gliders. Now retrace your

2 steps and return over the stile.

The spoil heaps and remains of walls etc. which you now see ahead of you form possibly one of the most important sites in the whole of Rossendale from an industrial archaeology point of view. For here was located the incline winding house, a workshop, scrubbing mill, boiler house and six cottages which in effect formed the nerve centre of the narrow gauge tramway system which comprised some eleven miles of track linking Ding, Cragg and other quarries via the incline to the main line at Cloughfold which altogether made up one of the largest quarry enterprises in the whole of the country. The cottages were occupied by a number of the employees and their families and among other things enabled the work force to be transported up and down the incline from Cloughfold each workday.

Proceed straight ahead between the heaps of rubble alongside a slightly depressed channel making for a gap in a small embankment. After passing through the gap in the embankment turn immediately to the right and pass through (or around the side of) a gate. The grassy path ahead now follows the line of the former tramway. A stile over a fence adjacent to a high stone wall is soon reached. Cross the stile and turn sharp left keeping the high stone wall immediately on the left.

To the right, below the slopes of Whitaker Pasture and Cowpe Lowe, you will see a grassy embankment, which is the dam of Lowe Lodge which was built to supply the Myrtle Grove Works between Cloughfold and Waterfoot. The Rossendale Way comes alongside this lodge and is joined at the next stile. Ahead is a very fine example of "buck & doe" walling with its battlemented top.

3 Cross a substantial stone step stile and a mark on a nearby gatepost clearly indicates that the Rossendale Way has now been joined. The path now heads away to the right across a boggy stretch of moorland to meet a track leading uphill on the right-hand side of a stone wall and fence.

The Rossendale Way is waymarked with the symbol:

RW

When the ground is very wet walk round the perimeter of this stretch of moorland keeping close to the stone wall in order to reach the route ahead. On clear days Pendle Hill is visible over to the north, to the right of three masts which dominate Hameldon Hill.

Proceed along this track. Look out for the remains of a stone wall which climbs uphill to the right at the point where the Rossendale Way heads slightly downhill across a more grassy pasture. At this point it is worth while making the small detour to see Lovely's grave which is situated high up on the moor a short distance to the left of the wall.

Lovely was a dog famous enough to merit a stone memorial. Stories about the dog vary, but she was 18 years old when she died in 1873. Some say Lovely belonged to a quarryman, others that it belonged to a barber, whilst others say that it was an inmate at the "San-Doyle" beer house at Sandy Bank. Some even say that Lovely belonged to nobody, but what is known is that she would go poaching, ratting, or game hunting with anyone who would take her. The inscription on the stone includes the following:

"On the twelvth of May,
We laid away,
One that was loved by many,
She hunted rats and was kind to cats,
And birds she sought out many".

The view from Lovely's grave on a clear day is very extensive.

Returning to the path the Rossendale Way drops slightly downhill across the grassy pasture.

Below the footpath at this point, across the field, are the remains of a stone flag wall.

The path soon runs along the left-hand side of a post and wire fence and after passing through an opening stays on the top side of a low stone wall

proceeding to the ruins of Lowe End.

Lowe End was originally three dwellings dating largely from the 18th century. Blue mortar between the stones in the ruins of the southern section clearly date this part as mid 19th century. At that time boiler ash from the mills was frequently used as an ingredient for mortar. Looking back at this point the typical Pennine formation can be clearly seen with the steep sided valley falling away to Cloughfold and in between this and the steep slopes of Whitaker Pasture a fairly level shelf with reasonably good pasture land.

The Rossendale Way passes on the north side of Lowe End and crosses a stile in a fence immediately to the east. At this point the path leaves the Rossendale Way.

4 The path now heads across a large green field downhill making for a substantial stone flag stile in the wall ahead.

There is a fine view of Waterfoot and Newchurch and the Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School is a dominant landmark. The Glen beyond the Cowpe Valley comes into view and when the Cowpe Reservoir is full the water can be clearly seen.

Pass through the stile and head straight down the pasture towards the spire of St James the Great Church.

On the hillside behind and to the left of the church, roughly at the edge of the housing, formerly stood Staghills House. This was one of the finest of the mill owners' residences which was demolished soon after the Second World War to make way for the new local authority housing scheme which takes its name. In 1840 there was an older house on the site of Staghills House which was known as "Slipper Hall" since slippers had been made there for some years from rabbit skins and similar materials which in effect could be said to have marked the very beginnings of the Waterfoot-based footwear industry. To the east of Staghills is Dark Lane, now for the most part an attractive path through the woodland, which was the location for cockfighting in the middle part of the 18th century. This usually took place annually at the time of the Newchurch Fair which was locally known as "Kirk Fair".

As the path steepens the hamlet of Rough Lee comes into view below. Make for the stile in front of the courtyard between the Manor House and the back of Rough Lee House.

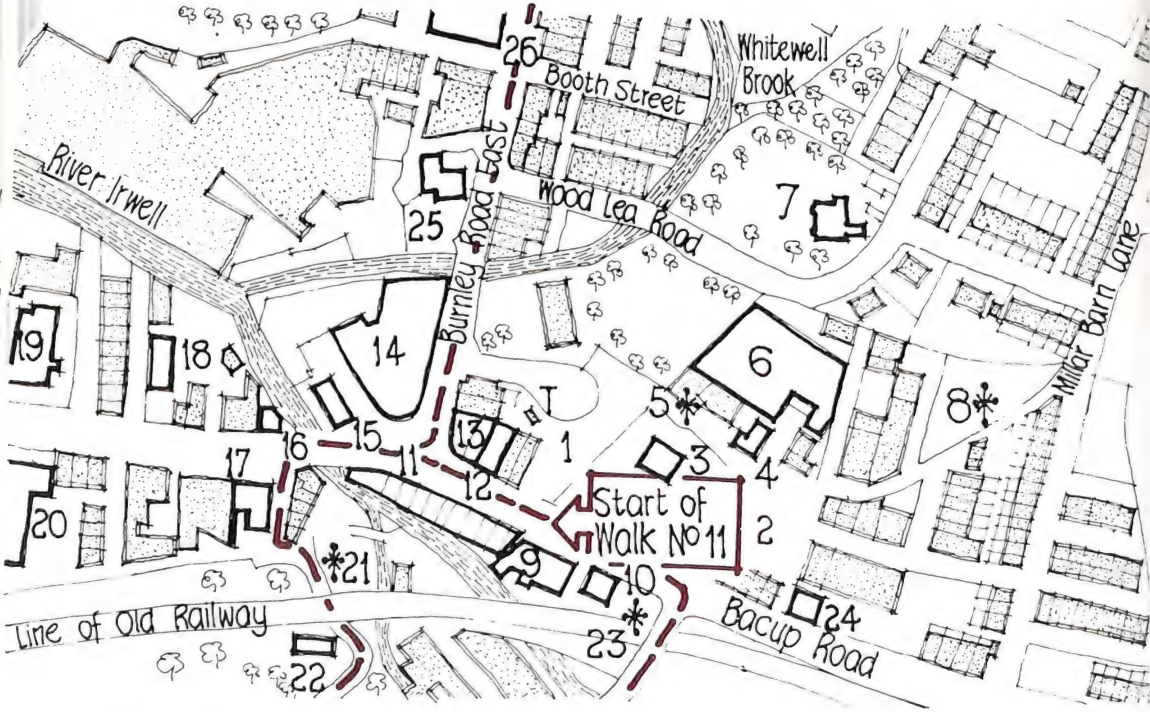
To the west of the Manor House is Lower Lench Farm, which is one of the most historic sites in Rossendale. It is thought to have been the site of a retreat used by the monks of Whalley Abbey. There is evidence of "cruck" construction within the building and a three light window is evident which has since been walled up. The present structure could well have formed part of the building which the monks knew. There is a 1511 date on the window cill. Adjacent to the building immediately to the east, which was also once a house, the main track up from Waterfoot, and doubtless the one used by the monks, is still evident. The Manor House is also very old and has a 1768 datestone with the initials E.L.P. Before continuing on the walk it is well worthwhile making a small detour right to see the front of Rough Lee House with its large stone gateposts and cast iron gates, in effect a miniature mill owner's mansion. The track leading up from the valley is also an extremely fine example of a flagged and setted roadway.

The route used by the monks may be taken down to Waterfoot or, alternatively, having passed through the courtyard, continue by way of the small gate adjacent to a farm gate on the path which passes the oil storage tank. The route ahead is easy to follow but take care where the path runs along the top of a small quarry at the edge of a wooded area. The path soon emerges in Waterfoot on Bacup Road at the side of the Duke of Buccleugh Hotel.

The first reference to Waterfoot was in 1740 in a document relating to the repair of a bridge. The present Duke of Buccleugh Hotel stands on the site of one of Waterfoot's earliest mentioned

Waterfoot Town Centre
Key to Buildings and Sites of Interest

1. Car Park
2. Overflow Car Park
3. Bridge End House
4. Rose Cottage
5. Datestone 1682
6. Former Market Hall
7. Wood Lea
8. Site of Millar Barn
9. Royal Hotel
10. Barclays Bank
11. Shops formerly dwellings
12. Dental Villa
13. National Westminster Bank
14. The Arcade
15. Railway Inn
16. Early Building
17. Duke of Buccleugh Hotel
18. Former Christian Science Bldg
19. Church of St. James the Great
20. Former Liberal Club
21. Site of Weaving Cottages
22. Former Railway Cottages
23. Site of Waterfoot Railway Station
24. Moulders Arms
25. Baltic House
26. Victoria Hall - Conservative Club



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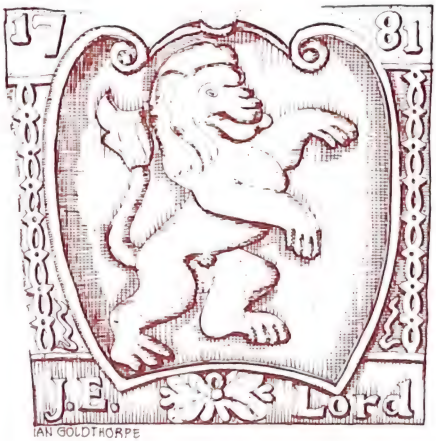
Newchurch

buildings. The building opposite and those to the east backing on to the river are among the oldest remaining in Waterfoot to-day. The present Bacup Road was built as a toll road in 1826.

5 Turn right and at the traffic lights turn left into Burnley Road East.

For those interested in looking round Waterfoot a more detailed map is provided indicating buildings and sites of interest. At the traffic lights note the fine shopping arcade which was built by Sir Henry Trickett, a slipper manufacturer, who wanted Waterfoot to be the shopping centre for Rossendale. He was five times Mayor of Rawtenstall and started business on his own account in 1883. He died in 1913 aged 56 and the building also bears a memorial plaque beneath the clock. Waterfoot developed rapidly after the opening of the railway and the centre



Plaque formerly above premises used by a hatter

well reflects Victorian manufacturing pride. The Royal Hotel and the other Inns provide bar snacks and meals.

Proceed along Burnley Road East as far as the telephone kiosk on the right-hand footpath.

Note Baltic House on the left-hand side of the road, immediately to the north of Baltic Bridge, which dates from the 18th century and was for many years a doctor's surgery.

At the telephone kiosk cross the road and proceed up the stone steps, just beyond Springfield Drive. These lead on to an attractive setted footpath with a metal handrail down the middle climbing up through a wooded plantation. **6**

This pathway is known as "The Heys" and was probably laid out in the middle of the 19th century to give easy pedestrian access from Newchurch to the new railway station at Waterfoot. This railway station was initially known as "Newchurch" before Waterfoot really developed.

Continue to the Church of St Nicholas at Newchurch which soon comes into view.

On the right below the church some ornamental cast iron railings, with stone piers between, mark the site of the former Church of England Primary School. This was demolished a few years ago since unfortunately when the new school was built no alternative use could be found for the old building. The present church was largely rebuilt in 1824/5 although located on one of the oldest sites in Rossendale. Look back

Heightside

from the church and admire the fine view to the south.

Just beyond the church turn right, at the Bluebell Inn, into Old Street.

Here you will see some of the few remaining old houses dating from the 17th century, since much of the village was re-developed in the early 1960's.

Turn left just beyond the cottages and left again on to Church Street.

Church Street marked the termination of the Haslingden Newchurch turnpike road built in 1795.

7 Proceed along the north side of Church Street to a point just beyond Naze Road in order to view the stone plaque embedded in a stone retaining wall together with a momento from old Newchurch.

On the opposite side of the road a fine block of old property survives which includes the Boar's Head with the reused datestone "LIE 1674". Both the Boar's Head and the Bluebell Inn provide bar snacks and meals.

7 Retrace your steps back a few yards to join the path which turns left into Naze Road. Naze Road soon becomes an attractive walled green track.

At this point look over the wall on the right to view the house "Ashlands" in its fine landscaped setting. It was built in 1863 by Richard Ashworth, a local felt manufacturer and orchid grower.

Pass through the stone stile to the left of the gate and take the left-hand path, but first note the fine view of the closely packed industry and housing in the valley below. The hill above is Seat Naze.

Seat Naze has a circular stone wall near its summit which could have been used for a pen, beacon, pound, cock fighting or bull baiting pit or more probably as a tree protector.

The narrow path becomes walled on both sides, soon with flags on the left-hand side, before crossing a further stile and a track which winds up on to the hillside. Continue straight ahead towards the Heightside Woods.

Cribden Hill is clearly visible to the left of the woods. As the woods are approached Heightside is seen in its extensive grounds to the left. This magnificent mansion, which is now used as a conference centre by the European Christian Mission was the home of the Bolton family until 1924. The family owned a coalmine in Burnley and the house, which probably dates from the late 18th century, was greatly extended and remodelled in the second half of the 19th century. There is a 1783 datestone in the kitchen garden.

Pass over a stile into the woods. Cross a further stile and a wider path and proceed straight ahead on a narrow path with an undergrowth of Rhododendrons.

This is possibly one of the most attractive parts of Rossendale, especially in the Springtime, although this section of path can be a little wet at times. Before leaving the woods via a stone slab stile the ruins of Far Height Side, a group of cottages dating from the 18th century, will be seen on the left.

Proceed in a forward direction across the meadow.

From this point the dismantled tramway incline is clearly evident going straight up the hillside to the left of the gasometer in the valley below.

Cross the stile to the left of a gate, then turn left on to Edge Lane which soon turns sharp left and continues downhill.

Edge Lane is part of the old highway system mentioned earlier in this walk. From this point Rawtenstall town centre can be seen, dominated by Ilex Mill and to the right the Library, St Mary's Church, and the former United Methodist Church are all clearly visible. Beyond can be seen the dual carriageway road leading to Manchester and the lower Rossendale Valley which is much wider.

After passing Edge Lane Farm Higher Cloughfold is soon reached.

Higher Cloughfold was designated a conservation area by Rossendale Borough Council in the mid 1970's and

Detour

has many attractive buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Of particular interest is the 18th century village shop and the nearby building with semi-circular headed windows to the east elevation, obviously inserted in the 19th century. The Red Lion Inn provides bar snacks and meals.

8 Leave Higher Cloughfold via Dobbin Lane, but first make a slight detour turning right into Patrick Crescent and immediately left along a narrow path before the first block of property.

This path leads to a hen-pen in which is located the pillared grave of an Innkeeper, James Ormerod, who died in 1817. Part of the inscription reads as follows:

"When we this good man's life explore,
We cannot but allow,
What'er this place might be before,
'Tis consecrated now".

Return to Dobbin Lane, turning right. **8**
The road soon steepens and winds past some old cottages. At the point where the surfaced road turns sharp left into Peel Street continue straight ahead on Dobbin Lane which is now narrow, walled and setted.

The fine stone house on the right, just before Dobbin Lane becomes setted, was formerly the Vicarage of Cloughfold Parish Church. The church, which is located on Bacup Road, closed a few years ago and is now used for commercial purposes. The cottage at the sharp bend in Dobbin Lane has two large projecting stone brackets, on the north side, which originally supported a water tank. This was used to collect rainwater from the roof to provide a water supply.

The starting point on Bacup Road in Cloughfold is soon reached.

Detour

Ramble No 11

From Waterfoot around the Cowpe Valley

DISTANCE: Approximately five and a half miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Four hours.

TERRAIN: The path is well defined and for much of the route is along old highways and the line of a former mineral tramway. The initial part of the walk involves a gradual climb with some steeper sections from Waterfoot town centre up to about 1,350 feet above sea level.

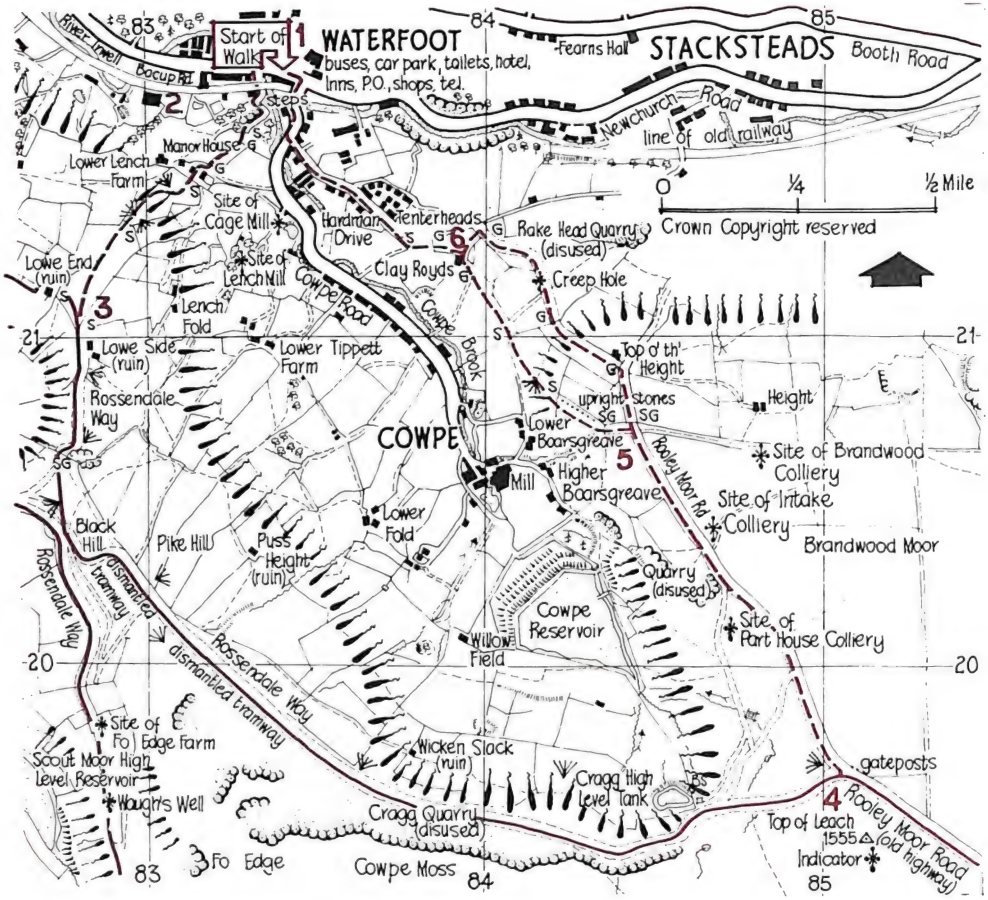
PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service to Waterfoot from Rawtenstall, Bacup and also from Burnley.

PARKING: Parking space can usually be found in the car park on the north side of Bacup Road opposite to the Royal Hotel. If this car park is full a road leads out of the north east corner to a further overflow car park in Millar Barn Lane.

Particular features of this walk are the long sections of fairly level path, once the 1,300 feet contour has been reached, with particularly extensive views to the north embracing, on a clear day, Pendle Hill, the Bowland Fells and the more distant peaks of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The walk also includes a short detour to Top of Leach, the highest point in Rossendale, from which extensive views of Greater Manchester and the Peak District National Park to the south are also obtained.

This walk starts outside the Royal Hotel. **1**

For those interested in looking round Waterfoot, a more detailed map is provided indicating buildings and sites of interest in connection with Ramble No 10. The first reference to Waterfoot was in 1740 in a document relating to



the repair of a bridge. Waterfoot developed rapidly after the opening of the railway and the centre well reflects Victorian manufacturing pride. Opposite the Royal Hotel is Bridge End House, originally built as a dwelling house in the early part of the 19th century. Behind Bridge End House is Rose Cottage dating from the latter half of the 19th century, a dwelling house which for many years was used as a surgery. To the west of it is an industrial building with the datestone "1682-I.A.R.H.". "IA" may stand for John Ashworth and "RH" may be the rebuilder. On the east side of Rose Cottage is Market Street which gives access to the former Market Hall which closed in 1952. The building has since been used for industrial purposes. Beyond in Millar Barn Lane is the site of Millar Barn where John Wesley preached in 1848. The Royal Hotel has a fine Victorian elevation and is dated 1876. To the east is Barclays Bank, another fine building of similar date.

Proceed towards the traffic lights.

The buildings on the left-hand side of the road, which were originally dwelling houses and have now all been converted into shops, are among the older buildings remaining in Waterfoot to-day. Note the building on the right-hand side of the road dated 1898 and known as "Dental Villa" which is still occupied by three dental surgeons. The National Westminster Bank is a fine

Town Trail

building dating from about the turn of the century and the attractive, but simply designed, Railway Inn dates from the mid 19th century following the opening of the railway. This building is reputed to have a ghost described by those who have seen the apparition as "a tall middle aged lady in a long grey dress". The focal point of the centre is the fine shopping arcade, which was built by Sir Henry Trickett, a slipper manufacturer, who wanted Waterfoot to be the shopping centre for Rossendale. He was five times Mayor of Rawtenstall and started business on his own account in 1883. He died in 1913 aged 56 and the building also bears a memorial plaque beneath the clock.

Continue in a westerly direction for a few yards beyond the traffic lights, crossing the River Irwell at Waterfoot Bridge. Turn left into Duke Street at the side of the Duke of Buccleugh.

The present Duke of Buccleugh Hotel stands on the site of one of Waterfoot's earliest mentioned buildings. The building on the north side of Bacup Road, opposite the Duke of Buccleugh Hotel, is also very old. The hotels and inns, including the Moulder's Arms, provide bar snacks and meals.

Turn left at the end of Duke Street and right again into Baron Fold and then pass under the former railway bridge.

In Baron Fold on the site where the lock-up garages now stand formerly stood some weaving cottages, which were demolished a few years ago. The railway line was opened in 1848 and closed in 1966. The house on the right beyond the bridge, which is now privately owned, was originally two railway cottages.

11 The path is waymarked by the symbol.

2 The path soon becomes grassy and climbs steeply through the trees. Fifty yards beyond the house, look out for some narrow stone steps leading off to the left. This is the path which follows round the edge of the woodland and along the top of a small quarry and then leaves the woodland by way of a stile.

Take care when walking along the path on the top of the small quarry face.

Continue straight ahead making for a group of buildings first passing through two gates. The path continues straight ahead through the courtyard with the Manor House on the right and the house known as "Rough Lee" on the left.

However, before continuing it is well worthwhile making a small detour to see the front of Rough Lee House with its large stone gateposts and cast iron gates, in effect a miniature millowner's mansion. The track leading up from Cowpe Road is an extremely fine example of a flagged and setted roadway. The Manor House is old and has a 1768 datestone with the initials "E.L.P.". The initials may represent Edmund Lord and wife. To the west of the Manor House is Lower Lench Farm, one of the most historic sites in Rossendale. It is thought to have been the site of a retreat used by the monks of Whalley Abbey. There is evidence of "cruck" construction within the building and there is a three-light window which has since been walled up. There is the date 1511 on the window cill. The present structure could well have formed part of the building which the monks knew. Adjacent to the building which is immediately to the east of the farmhouse, and which was also once a dwelling having a datestone "I.W.L. 1810", the main track up from Waterfoot, and doubtless the one used by the monks, is still evident.

Returning to the path cross the stile at the southern end of the courtyard and continue steeply uphill making for a stile which appears as a nick a short distance from the right-hand end of a wall on the skyline.

There are fine views to the east and to the west on this section of the walk. On reaching the stile pause and admire the view extending from Cribden in the west over to the moors marking the boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire in the east.

Having passed through the substantial stone slab stile make for the top left-

hand corner of the large grassy field. Just below the corner of the field in a short stretch of wall, you will see the stile. At this point the Rossendale Way is joined.

RW The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol:

3 Cross over this stile on to the edge of the moorland making for the large heap of rubble which marks the remains of Lowe Side.

Lowe Side was originally two separate pairs of dwellings which probably dated from the 18th century.

The path now becomes a well defined track and continues to climb round the shoulder of Whitaker Pasture.

Soon fine views of the Cowpe Valley are obtained to the east with Cowpe Reservoir at its head. Below the dam Cowpe Mill, usually known as "Kearns Mill" is visible. The Cowpe Reservoir was started in 1901 and completed in 1910 by Bacup Corporation and later taken over by the Irwell Valley Water Board. Kearns Mill, which is a dyeing and bleaching mill, was built about 1825 and rebuilt in 1876 after a fire in a setting evoking the early days of the Industrial Revolution since here it is still possible to experience the mixture of industry and agriculture so typical of Rossendale, and setting it apart from the monotony and dullness of the larger surrounding towns.

After passing round a "hairpin" bend cross over a stile to the left of a gate. Now the route leaves the well defined track branching off left in a southerly direction across the open moorland, often being boggy due to motorbike scrambling, making for the left-hand end of the elevated section of a dismantled tramway.

Pause here for a moment to look back at the fine view of Stacksteads and Bacup far below with many mill chimneys still remaining. Ahead the attractive lower Rossendale Valley soon comes into view dominated by the Peel Monument on Holcombe Moor, and beyond the flatter plain of the Greater Manchester conurbation. The Peel Monument, or Holcombe Tower, on Holcombe Hill was erected to the memory of the second Sir Robert Peel, a great Statesman and one time Premier, to commemorate the services he rendered in connection with the repeal of the Corn Laws. He was born at Chamber Hall, Bury, a little further down the valley and within the sight of the monument erected to his memory. The monument was built in 1852, by public subscription at a cost of £900. The elevated section of track crossing the route at this point is part of the eleven miles of 3 feet wide narrow gauge railway system built by the Brooks family of Crawshawbooth to provide a transport link with their various quarries with the main railway line at Cloughfold. Started in the middle part of the 19th century the system was gradually extended, in this instance to link Cragg and Ding Quarries, and was finally disbanded in 1919.

A track crosses the line of the dismantled tramway at this point. Take the left-hand section of this track which climbs up the shoulder of Black Hill in a south easterly direction.

This track soon flattens out and becomes a fine example of an old highway with substantial stone flags on either side which are worn with the passage of wheeled vehicles. In between these are stone setts to give the horses a satisfactory means of grip when pulling heavy loads, especially uphill. The distance between the stone walls on either side of this section of road gives some idea of the former importance of this route.

Soon the Rossendale Way runs along the line of a dismantled tramway with high spoil heaps on either side ahead.

Over to the north east across a well maintained stone wall another fine view of Stacksteads is obtained. Once abreast of the first spoil heap on the right-hand side turn and look back at the fine view which extends from the Bowland Fells to the fells of the Yorkshire Dales and round to the east of the moors of the Brontë country.

The Rossendale Way ahead is now clearly defined with the spoil heaps of the disused Cragg Quarry on either side.

Rossendale Way

The stone from this quarry is known as "Haslingden Flag" or "Whitworth Red Sandstone". It went as far afield as Trafalgar Square and Paris. The stone was first removed by blasting and then was split by masons into paving flags. Some was split further into thinner roofing tiles and a medium sized flag was used for dry stone walling of which there are many examples throughout the area. Soon the spoil heaps terminate on the north side and surprise views open out with Cowpe Reservoir and its impressive three-tiered dam, and Kearns Mill far below. Beyond the townships of Waterfoot and Newchurch can be seen with Bacup to the north east. From here the close-knit character of the various communities is very evident, together with the vast expanse of wild moorland and upland countryside. A little further on, on the left, will be seen some large blocks of stone which were left at the time quarrying ceased. The path again drops down into the disused quarry workings. Here in the winter time there are usually many fine icicles.

Soon the path finally climbs out of the quarry workings.

Here another dramatic view is obtained of the Cowpe Reservoir to the north as the contours fall very steeply away. The small reservoir above the Cowpe Reservoir is known as "Cragg High Level Tank".

Shortly at a junction the Rossendale Way continues along the right-hand track.

Here the old highway again becomes evident with another excellent example of the original stone paving.

4 Soon the Rossendale Way joins Rooley Moor Road branching off to the right in a south easterly direction. Here make a slight detour by continuing along the Rossendale Way for about 300 yards in order to visit Top of Leach, the highest point in Rossendale. At the end of a stone wall on the left-hand side of Rooley Moor Road, at the point where a post and wire fence begins, and also close to the summit of the road, look out for a small cairn on the right-hand side where a number of small tracks appear to branch off over the moor through a slight depression. Take the middle track and you will soon see the Indicator and the official Ordnance Survey triangulation pillar.

The triangulation pillar marks the summit of Top of Leach 1,555 feet above sea level. Nearby a five-sided stone pillar was erected in 1974 to mark Local Government Reorganisation and the formation of the Borough of Rossendale. It was given by Jonathan Barcroft and was quarried at Horncliffe. The pillar stands near the point where four of the five former districts join and each of the five sides is engraved correspondingly with the name of the former district. On the top is a view pointer indicating the surrounding landmarks and their distances. Included are the Peak District 20 miles, Manchester 15 miles, Knowle Hill 2 miles, Cowpe Lowe 2 miles, Cribden Hill 4 miles, Pendle Hill 14 miles, Ingleborough 35 miles, Pen-y-Ghent 34 miles, the Bowland Fells 25 miles and Black Hameldon 7 miles.

Retrace your steps to Rooley Moor Road and turn left.

At the point where the Rossendale Way 4
joins Rooley Moor Road, opposite two free-standing stone gateposts, keep straight ahead on Rooley Moor Road.

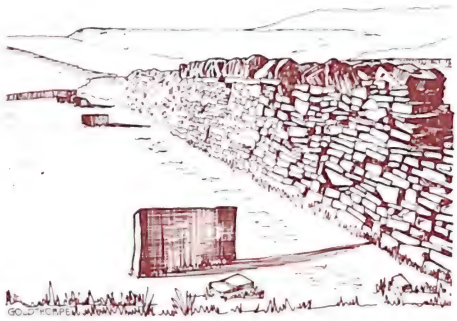
Pause and admire the fine view to the north, dominated by Pendle Hill straight ahead. Also the excellently preserved sections of old highway in the vicinity give some idea of the appearance of a main road about 200 years ago.

Rooley Moor Road is clearly defined and soon begins to descend steeply.

To the west is the site of Part House Colliery and to the east a little further on the sites of Intake and Brandwood Collieries. These collieries were working about 1800 and closed about 1885. Rooley Moor Road is part of a very old highway system which linked Rochdale, Burnley and Clitheroe. It was used to take finished cloth and food to the markets. In some parts the present road has moved to one side of the original and the wheels from the horses and carts have worn deep ruts in many of the flag stones.

Detour

At the point where there is a metal gate across the road, with a stile to the right, there is an alternative route described first.



Upright stones, Cowpe Valley

5 Take the track to the left with a small stream running to the right-hand side. A short distance ahead pass through a stile to the right of a gate leaving the well defined track and proceed across the field keeping a stone wall immediately on your right.

Here you will see seven upright stones a little distance from the wall evenly spaced out. Neither the purpose nor the date of these stones is known.

Pass through a gated stile and cross the meadow ahead.

From here there are fine views of Kearns Mill in the valley below dominated by the dam of the reservoir. The name Cowpe very aptly means "a small enclosed valley".

Cross a further stile and take the path leading straight ahead to Clay Royds.

Clay Royds is so named because clay was dug out of the hillside below for the puddling and waterproofing of the reservoir.

At Clay Royds pass through a small gate at the right-hand end of the fence bordering the farmyard and then pass round the northern end of the farmhouse.

The land in the vicinity of Clay Royds, between the River Irwell and the Cowpe Brook, was the earliest land in the Rossendale Forest to be cleared. Many people from Ashworth near Rochdale settled here to cultivate the land and took the name Ashworth as a surname.

Cross over the stile to the right of the metal gate. **5**

Rooley Moor Road now has high stone walls on either side and the original stone paving is again evident. Top o'th'Height soon comes into view.

Just before Top o'th'Height leave Rooley Moor Road via a metal gate to the left. The path continues ahead alongside the farm house and then a stone wall becoming defined as a track as it descends into a cutting crossing a wall to the left of a gateway which has been blocked up. Shortly the track crosses a footpath and a high stone wall appears on the left.

A short distance along this stone wall is an excellent example of a creep hole. This is a device frequently used in the Pennines to allow sheep to pass freely between two separate fields, but preventing cattle and horses from doing so by virtue of their size.

The track leaves the stone wall and winds gradually downhill to a gate leading to a fenced section of the path and then turns left to Clay Royds.

Pass along the northern end of the farm house and alongside a wooden fence beyond. Pass through a small gate where the fence joins a stone wall and proceed to a further stile. The path quickly leads to Hardman Drive to the right of a stone flag wall. **6**

The property on the right is known as Tenterheads and denotes that in the early 18th century the woollen cloth from the fulling mills would be stretched out in the nearby fields on tenter hooks. On the other side of Waterfoot are "Tenterfield Cottages". The cloth would no doubt have come from nearby.

Following the road downhill Hardman Drive soon runs into Carr Lane.

Note the nicely restored 18th century cottage on the left-hand side of Carr Lane. After crossing the River Irwell the grass embankment on each side of Cowpe Road marks the site of Waterfoot Railway Station which

extended on a bridge across this road and was initially known as Newchurch Station.

On joining Bacup Road turn left to return to the Royal Hotel a few yards ahead.

This section of road through the "Thrutch", or Glen, to Bacup was completed in 1826.

Ramble No 12

From Stacksteads over the Moors along Rooley Moor Road passing the site of the Moorcock Inn

DISTANCE: Approximately seven and a half miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Five and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The first half of the walk is mainly along an ancient highway but part of the return route is across open moorland where the path is undefined and the ground can be boggy at times. Although the gradients are generally fairly gradual with only short steeper sections the path reaches the 1,500 ft. contour on Rooley Moor Road. On account of the undefined section of footpath this walk is not recommended for inexperienced ramblers.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service between Rawtenstall and Bacup passing through Stacksteads and a less frequent service operates from Whitworth.

PARKING: There is a large car park at the starting point of this walk.

Particular features of this walk are the extensive views in all directions and the long sections of fairly level path once the upper contours have been reached. The walk also includes a short detour to Top of Leach, the highest point in Rossendale, from which on a clear day extensive views are obtained to the north embracing Pendle Hill, the Bowland Fells and the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and to the south over Greater Manchester and the Peak District National Park.

1 This walk starts at the car park in the centre of Stacksteads to the east of the Parish Church. Cross the road and walk towards Holy Trinity Church turning left into Blackwood Road between the Commercial and the Railway.

The Railway Tavern at the corner of Blackwood Road provides bar snacks and meals. Its beautiful sign depicting a steam engine remind one of the busy railway line which formerly ran just behind this hostelry.

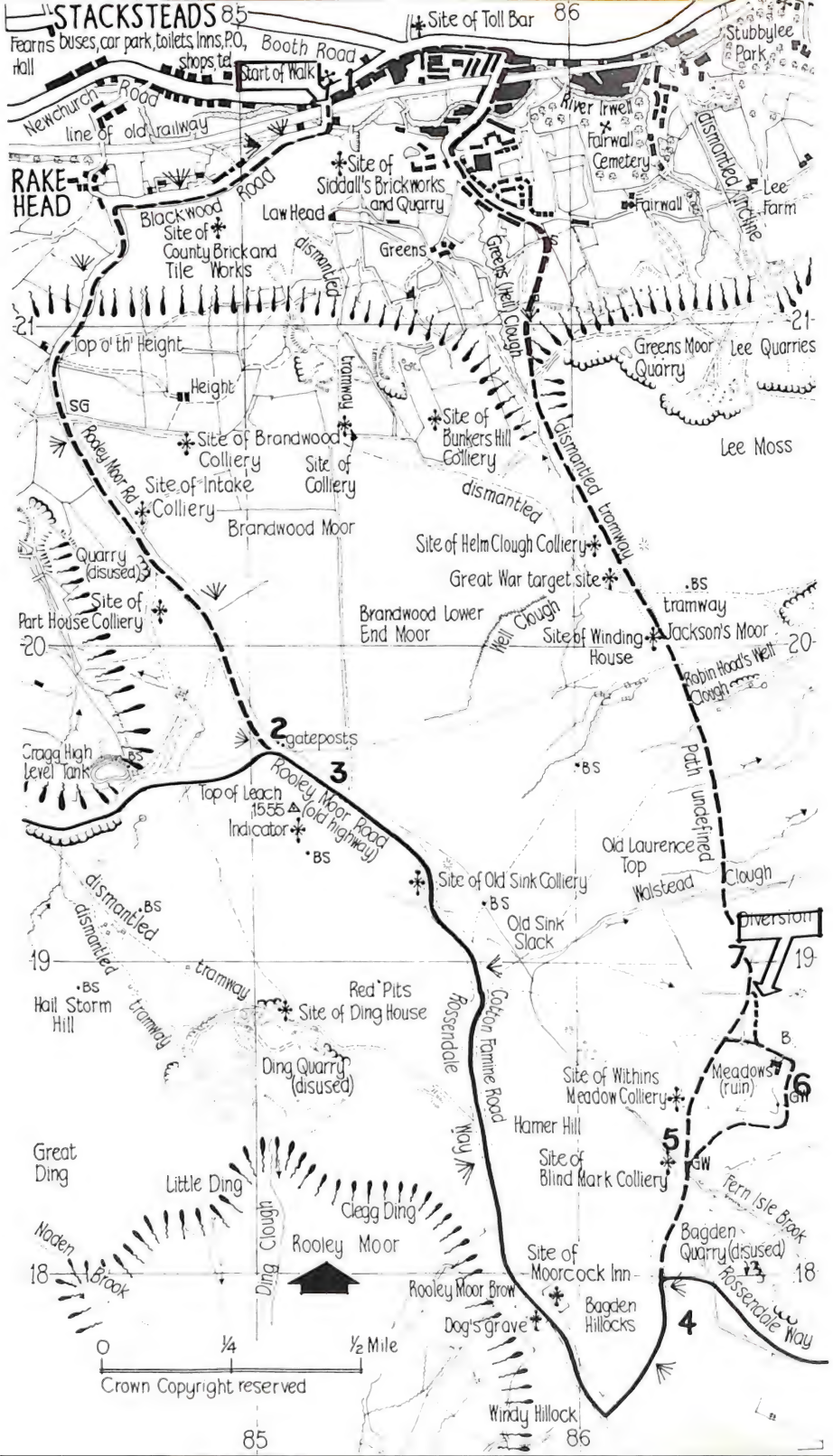
The line of the old railway can still be picked out.

A few yards to the west along the line was located Stacksteads Station. In 1852 this line was extended from Waterfoot to Bacup after great difficulty in constructing the section through the Glen. It remained a single line until 1870 and it was not until 1880 that Stacksteads Station was opened. The line between Rawtenstall and Bacup was closed in 1966.

After crossing the River Irwell the road turns sharply to the right and starts to climb.

The path is waymarked by the symbol: 12

To the left is the site of Siddall's Brickworks which operated between 1890 and 1916. Beyond is the site of County Brickworks later Henry Heys which operated between 1880 and 1914. Until recently this was an area of great dereliction with many unfit back-to-back properties which have now been demolished. The large area to the


STACKSTEADS
Fearns buses, car park, toilets, Inns, P.O., shops, tel
Booth Road
Start of Walk
Site of Toll Bar
Stubbylee Park
Newchurch Road
line of old railway
RAKE HEAD
Site of Siddall's Brickworks and Quarry
River Irwell
Fairwall Cemetery
dismantled railway
Lee Farm
Fairwall
Blackwood
Site of County Brick and Tile Works
Law Head
Greens
dismantled
Greens (Helm) Clough
21
Top o' th' Height
Height
Greens Moor Quarry
Lee Quarries
SG
Rooley Moor Rd
Site of Brandwood Colliery
Site of Intake Colliery
Site of Colliery
tramway
Site of Bunkers Hill Colliery
dismantled tramway
Lee Moss
Brandwood Moor
dismantled
Site of Helm Clough Colliery
Great War target site
BS
Quarry (disused)
Site of Part House Colliery
Brandwood Lower End Moor
Well Clough
Site of Winding House
tramway
Jackson's Moor
20
Robin Hood's Well Clough
2
gateposts
Cragg High Level Tank
3
Rooley Moor Road (old highway)
Top of Leach
1555
Indicator
BS
Path undefined
Old Laurence Top
Walstead
Clough
Site of Old Sink Colliery
Old Sink Slack
diversion
7
19
dismantled
dismantled
tramway
tramway
Hail Storm Hill
Red Pits
Site of Ding House
Ding Quarry (disused)
Rossendale Way
Cotton Famine Road
Site of Withins Meadow Colliery
Meadows (ruin)
6
GW
Hamer Hill
5
Site of Blind Mark Colliery
Great Ding
Little Ding
Clegg Ding
Rooley Moor
Ding Clough
Naden Brook
18
Fern Isle Brook
Bagden Quarry (disused)
Site of Moorcock Inn
Rooley Moor Brow
Bagden Hillocks
Dog's grave
4
Rossendale Way
0
¼
½ Mile
Crown Copyright reserved
Windy Hillock
85
86

left was reclaimed by Lancashire County Council in 1983. Looking back Stacksteads is attractive with the old buildings dominated by the Victorian Parish Church which dates from 1840 with a transept added in 1873.

Soon there is a good view to the right down the valley.

A number of large industrial buildings dominate the scene and beyond the Glen, or "Thrutch Gorge", can be seen

Beyond are some industrial houses on the right.

Originally these were back-to-back.

The road now opens out with a fine view across the Valley of Newchurch dominated by its Parish Church. At Rake Head turn left on to Rooley Moor Road.

Pause here for a moment and look to the right, where overlooking a small green are some old cottages with "stepped mullioned" windows.

Rooley Moor Road soon climbs steeply and fine views open out behind. Top o'th'Height farm soon appears on the right-hand side as the track begins to flatten out.

On a clear day Pendle Hill comes into view across the garden of the farmhouse.

At this point the macadamed road terminates and there is evidence of the early road construction with a line of causey stones on either side and setts between.

The width of the road reservation between the stone walls on either side suggests that this road was originally of great importance and one historian even thinks it is part of a Roman road from Manchester to Ribchester. The present structure, where it survives, is a high pack horse track with a double line of causey stones.

A metal gate with a stile to the left gives access to the open moor.

Pause for a moment and look at the view over to the right of the Cowpe Valley dominated by Cowpe Lowe, and further to the right in the valley bottom Rawtenstall with its large gas holder at Cloughfold. To the left are the sites of Brandwood and Intake Collieries which were working about 1800 and closed about 1885. At one time the monks of Whalley Abbey owned land in tne vicinity of Brandwood.

Proceed ahead along Rooley Moor Road. Ignore the right fork, where there is a small disused quarry on the right-hand side bounded by a battlemented stone wall, and continue straight ahead.

To the right is the site of Part House Colliery which also operated between 1800 and 1885.

The track, which is rather rough, now climbs fairly steeply for a while and then flattens out with a substantial stone wall on the left.

To the right there are glimpses of Cowpe Reservoir and Cowpe Mill. The view behind is extensive embracing on a clear day, in addition to Pendle Hill, the more distant Bowland Fells and the fells of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Also the small area of land in Rossendale which is, in fact, developed and the wide open spaces covered by either a pattern of green fields or wild expanses of rugged moorland is clearly evident.

Soon the Rossendale Way, a well defined track with a line of causey stones on either side and setts between, joins from the right, at a point where there are two free-standing gate posts on the left. Continue straight ahead.

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol:

This section of the ancient highway has clear evidence of its former importance judging by the deep ruts which have been worn in the main flags on either side.

Here it is well worth while making a short detour in order to visit Top of Leach, the highest point in Rossendale.

At the end of a stone wall on the left-hand side of Rooley Moor, at a point where a post and wire fence begins, and also close to the summit of the road, look out for a small cairn on the right-hand side where a number of

2

RW

Rossendale Way

3

The Indicator Stone

small tracks appear to branch off over the moor through a slight depression. Take the middle track and you will soon see the Indicator and nearby the official Ordnance Survey triangulation pillar.

The triangulation pillar marks the summit of Top of Leach 1,555 ft. above sea level. Nearby a five-sided stone pillar was erected in 1974 to mark Local Government Reorganisation and the formation of the new Borough of Rossendale. It was given by Jonathan Barcroft and was quarried at Horncliffe. The pillar stands near the point where four of the five former districts join and each of the five sides is engraved correspondingly with the name of the former district. On the top is a view pointer indicating the surrounding landmarks and their distances. Included are the Peak District 20 miles, Manchester 15 miles, Knowl Hill 2 miles, Cowpe Lowe 2 miles, Cribden Hill 4 miles, Pendle Hill 14 miles, Ingleborough 35 miles, Pen-y-Ghent 34 miles, the Bowland Fells 25 miles and Black Hameldon 7 miles.

Retrace your steps to Rooley Moor Road and turn right.

3 In a few yards the summit of the road at 1,513 ft. above sea level is crossed.

On a clear day Hollingworth Lake and the M62 motorway beyond are visible. This part of the road gives a good idea of the appearance of an important highway some 200 or so years ago.

Rooley Moor Road now very gradually starts to descend.

On the right is the site of Old Sink Colliery which was operating in the 1870's. On the left is the old air shaft to Old Sink Colliery.

Look out for a dilapidated dry stone wall a little distance across the moorland to the left. A few yards further on the road becomes setted across its whole width.

At this point on a clear day Stoodley Pike is visible on the skyline of the distant hill above the dilapidated wall. The Pennine Way passes Stoodley Pike, which was first erected in 1814 to commemorate the surrender of Paris to the Allies after the Napoleonic Wars. It collapsed in 1854 and was rebuilt in 1856. This and other setted sections of Rooley Moor Road were laid during the cotton famine of the 1860's when many textile mill workers and their families were starving. At this time their employers initiated what was in effect an early "job opportunity scheme" by setting up road building and improvement projects. Most of the setts are still in good order, but some which are badly worn were laid with the grain running the wrong way - possibly because they were put in by unskilled labour, or perhaps because cheap stone was used. This section of the Rossendale Way was, therefore, often known as the "Cotton Famine Road".

Further on ignore a track which comes in from the right and continue ahead along the Rossendale Way which is still setted.

This track off to the right was built to gain access to Ding Quarry which operated until 1956. It was reopened between 1965 and 1971 to provide material for the construction of the M62 motorway. The remains of a crushing plant can still be seen.

At this point there are fine views across the Naden Valley to the right with its

Moorcock Inn - now demolished

three reservoirs in the bottom, the whole being dominated by Knowl Hill, which is almost like a miniature of Ingleborough.

Naden Upper Reservoir was built between 1846 and 1848, Naden Middle Reservoir between 1863 and 1870 and Naden Lower Reservoir between 1846 and 1848, all being for the Heywood Water Works Company. Greenbooth Reservoir below them was built in 1955 by Sir Alfred McAlpine and a whole village was submerged.

Further on are some dry stone walls on the right enclosing land reclaimed from the moor. On the left at this point is the site of the Moorcock Inn, which was situated some 1,324 ft. above sea level. What a welcome sight it would be for ramblers if it still existed to-day!

This Inn was known locally as "The Rooleys" and at one time as the North Eastern. Although it only had a six day licence it was open all of the seven. It was a famous pub for "going on the rant", where many of the locals went for days at a time until their money ran out; then they would slave away for weeks on end without touching a drink.

The first Sunday in May was to many locals known as the day of "Rooley Sermons", which with typical Lancashire humour referred to the annual trek over the moors for a drink at the Moorcock Inn. A body was once found on the moors and taken to the Moorcock for identification. People came from miles around to view it, and the landlady did a roaring trade. Some time later, some quarrymen told her they were bringing another body, so the landlady set to and brewed large quantities of ale, but there was no second body and the ale was wasted. The Inn was in ruins in 1968 ending its days during the Second World War. The last landlord was an ex-Mayor of Swinton, who was not able to carry on after his son had "joined up" and the licence lapsed. Later the ruined building became a target for artillery practice. On the right in the enclosures is a dog's grave inscribed "In memory of Watch". The Rooley Moor Hunt used to meet each year in March at the Inn.

Ahead Top of Pike, surmounted by a cairn, comes into view with evidence of

Rossendale Way

some coalmining on its slopes. Here Rooley Moor Road drops down and at the bottom of the dip, where the stone setts terminate, follow the Rossendale Way which takes a narrower but well defined track off to the left. The broad extent of the Whitworth Valley to the right soon comes into view.

On the extreme right the spire of Healey Church can be seen but the whole view is dominated by the tower of St Bartholomew's Church above Whitworth Square, and further to the left the tower of St John's at Facit can be seen.

The track gradually climbs and the Rossendale Way branches off on a footpath to the right towards some dilapidated stone walls.

4 Keep straight ahead on the well defined track which climbs slightly towards a gateway where the ground is often boggy.

Nearby is the site of Blind Mark Colliery which was operating in 1840. Some of the water making the ground hereabouts boggy comes out of the colliery workings. The gateway and wall marks the boundary between the counties of Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

Pass through the gateway back into Lancashire. Here two green tracks divide providing two alternative routes.

5 Take the left-hand green track built on slightly elevated ground which terminates at the site of Withins Meadow Colliery.

Withins Meadow Colliery was operating in the 1850's.

From here take the right-hand footpath across the open moor which passes the corners of two stone walls, crosses a stream and then runs alongside a dilapidated stone wall for a short distance.

5 Take the right-hand green track which makes towards the ruins of Meadows in the valley below, and initially to the bottom corner of a meadow where a number of fences and walls join. The path crosses through an opening in a post and wire fence and then alongside a dry stone wall passing between two stone gateposts, where it can be boggy at times, to the ruins of Meadows.

Meadows Farm, which was lived in until about 1939 was always a tenanted property. The remaining stonework is beautifully laid with narrow joints, possibly dating from the late 18th or early 19th centuries.

IN THE EVENT OF THE WEATHER DETERIORATING a path can be taken to the east from Meadow Farm down into Whitworth. Alternatively another route skirting the open moorland through the edge of the quarries, which is slightly longer and not shown on the map, can be taken for those with a 2½ inch Ordnance Survey map. Proceed in an easterly direction from Meadows Farm past Limed Farm to join High Barn Lane, turning left. At Shore Head fork left. The path passes to the right of old quarry workings and carries on along a well defined track on a high ledge with good views down to Back Cowm, where Cowm Reservoir buried a hamlet of several houses and a mill. Proceed across to Dules Mouth (Devil's Mouth) and Matty's Face Quarries. The path then bears left up the deep valley of Walstead Clough. At the top the path turns right and gets lost in the quarry workings. There is a faint track going up the hillside to the left, at the head of the valley to a stone wall at right angles to the quarry track. Follow this wall round, heading for the spoil heaps alongside Robin Hood's Well Clough. Here it is best to drop down into the Clough turning left up to its head where the main path back to Stacksteads can be rejoined. **6**

The path crosses just below the ruins and over the remains of a wooden bridge turning sharp left to follow alongside a stream with some little waterfalls. Adjacent to a stone slab bridge the definitive path on to the moor is blocked and the diversion described appears to be in use. Turn right alongside a wall bordering the open moor, passing through an opening in the wall to the next field, then to the left through an opening in the wall on to the open moor. **6**

7 The next section of path is undefined and can be very boggy in places. Leaving the stone wall and striking across the open moor in a northerly direction, the best guide on a clear day being to make towards Pendle Hill. Soon the stone workings in the Cowm Valley to the east will come into view and the official path should fairly easily be picked up crossing Robin Hood's Well Clough just above the stone workings.

How Robin Hood's Well Clough got its name is a matter for conjecture. It has been suggested that the famous outlaw, Robin Hood, may have visited these parts. However, it should be mentioned that there was a Robin Hood festival celebrated at Bury annually until about 1820. In the Cowm Quarry much stone was mined in stone "flag mines" with tunnels stretching for miles into the hillsides. At one time it was possible to walk from Hallfold in Whitworth to Lee Quarries without coming above ground. A few years ago three potholers were lost for 24 hours in one of these mines at Back Cowm before being rescued. Some time in the 30's two boys went down a similar shaft on the Bacup side and were never found.

A well defined path climbs up from the stream in Robin Hood's Well Clough passing through an area of stones being the site of the winding house to the dismantled tramway the site of which forms the straight and clearly marked path ahead. This is partly on a small enbankment soon dropping into a slight cutting. A path on the line of another dismantled tramway soon crosses our path and this has a boundary stone to the north of it 150 yards to the right.

To the left a mass of peat marks a site used for target practice during the Great War, and nearby is the site of Helm Clough Colliery.

Soon the path drops down into a deep gorge with glimpses of Stacksteads beyond.

This gorge is often locally known as "Hell Clough" but this is probably a corruption of Well Clough by which the upper part of the valley is known. However, a local legend refers to the Devil at the time the Stacksteads area was a lake and his Satanic Majesty had his country seat in Hell Clough. After a storm threatened his lake by breaching at Thrutch Glen he hurriedly put on an apron filling it with clay and gravel to repair the breach. His apron strings broke and the mass of rubbish fell to the ground forming a mound still known to-day as "The Devil's Bratful".

Stay on the right-hand side of the stream and do not be tempted to take the track off to the left past some large boulders on the other side of the valley. Soon the track widens and becomes grassy veering off to the right. Here take the small path continuing straight ahead across the bottom of the quarry workings.

This section of path, because of its narrowness, is locally known as "One Man Path". The grassy track to the right was formerly the line of another tramway. This area, in the latter part of the 19th century, was covered with an elaborate network of tramways serving the quarries and coalmines and linking to the main railway lines at Stacksteads, Lee Mill, Britannia and Facit.

From here there is a fine view of Stacksteads and down the valley towards Rawtenstall. Pass through a gate and continue along a clearly defined path slightly right across a meadow.

Here there are several examples of stone flag walling, a product of the local quarries.

At the bottom corner of this field cross over the left-hand stile which quickly gives access on to Cutler Lane. Turn left on to Cutler Lane.

As the road bends to the right there is an interesting bridge with some old gateposts at the beginning of it leading into Springhill Avenue and Springhill Villas, formerly the site of a millowner's house. Below is a lodge which serves Acre Mill and nearby is Acre Mill itself with an elaborate 1872 datestone. This mill which probably goes back much earlier and was operating in 1844 was

formerly a woollen mill belonging to the Ashworth family.

Where Cutler Lane becomes Acre Mill Road the prospect ahead is very much like a Lowry scene. After crossing the River Irwell and the line of the former railway turn left on to Newchurch Road.

On the north side near the junction of Booth Road and Newchurch Road, where the bus shelter sits at the bottom of the old route up Huttock End Lane, was located the Toll House. The Bacup Shoe Company building has an 1833 datestone inside.

The starting point in Stacksteads is soon reached.

Ramble No 13

From Whitworth past Broadley Fold, along part of Rooley Moor Road and through Hallfold

DISTANCE: Approximately five and a half miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Four hours.

TERRAIN: The path is well defined over much of its route being along the line of an old railway and along old highways for the most part. The first section of the walk is through the valley of the River Spodden and from there the climb is fairly gradual up to the moorland where the highest point reached is 1,300 feet above sea level. There is a short, but steep, climb up to Hallfold from, either the stepping stones below Robin Bank or, the Clam bridge.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service to Whitworth from both Rochdale and Bacup.

PARKING: There is a small car park at the starting point of the walk and there is a larger car park on the east side of Market Street immediately to the south of the Dog & Partridge Inn. Further car parking is also available in Milner Street to the north of Hall Street.

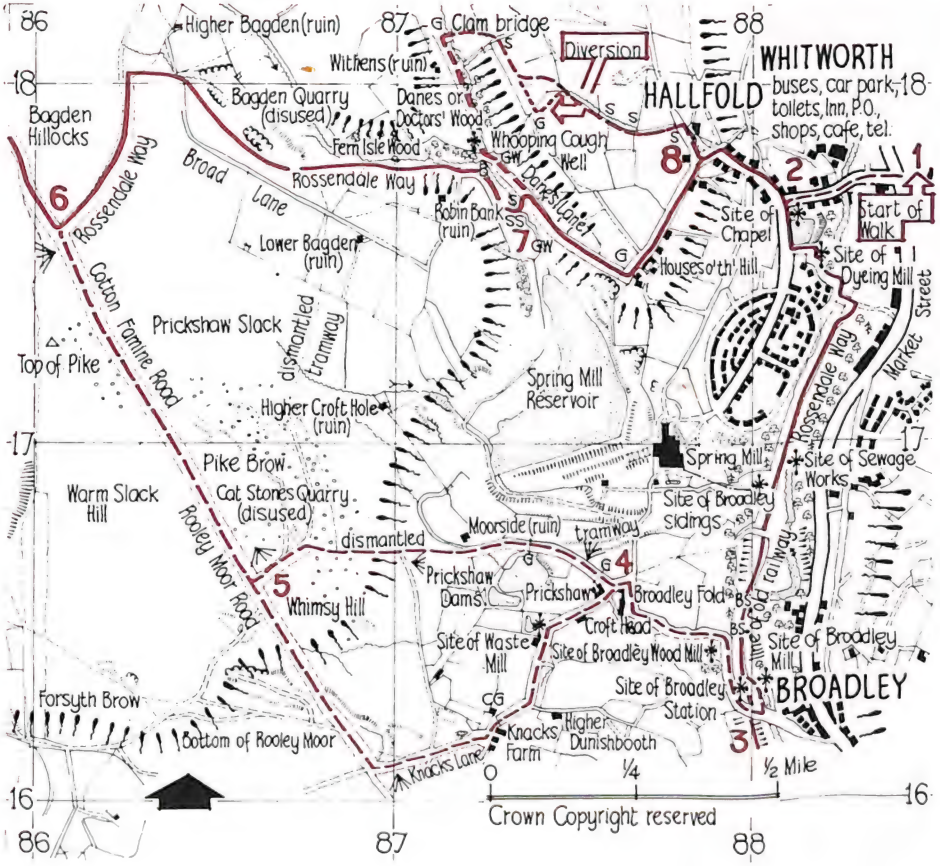
Particular features of this walk are the pleasant stretches of river scenery along the recently reclaimed Spodden Valley and the attractive valleys of the Fern Isle and Prickshaw Brooks which contrast with the wild area of Rooley Moor.

1 This walk starts at the car park at the junction of Market Street and Hall Street.

Whitworth Square to the east, including Church Street, was designated a Conservation Area by Lancashire County Council in the early 1970's. Those interested in following a historic Town Trail through the Conservation Area which is associated with the famous Whitworth Doctors should refer to Ramble No 14. The Dog & Partridge Inn provides bar snacks and meals. Market Street forms part of the turnpike road built from Rochdale to Bacup in 1809-10.

Proceed in a westerly direction along Hall Street.

Cowm Park Way to the north runs along the line of the former single track railway line which was opened in 1870 and lost its passenger service in 1947. However, goods trains continued, and it closed a bit at a time until finally one coal train per day ran to Joseph Taylor's coal yard at Whitworth Station between 1963 and 1967, closing altogether in August that year. The bridge carrying Hall Street with its small arch still remains and the derelict land to the south marks the site of the former Whitworth Railway Station and its adjacent goods yard. On the right across the River Spodden is Orama Mill, formerly the home of the Rochdale Wool Company. Note Hallfold Bridge with its elaborate 1901 datestone. The present United Reformed Church building was formerly the primary room



of the Day School. This building, later used as the Sunday School buildings, was erected in 1872 as a Day School and was replaced in 1928 by the Tonnacliffe County Primary School. The church, which stood on the site of the new houses immediately to the west, was built in 1849 and services continued in this building until the boiler failed in 1968 when worship was transferred to the School. The building, dating from about 1864, behind the site of the former church was the Manse but no longer is so. On the left at the junction with Wallbank Drive is the site of the original Hallfold Chapel. This was built in 1710 by a group of dissenters who started meeting in a farmhouse at Fold Head as far back as 1698. By 1849 the chapel on this site had become too small and a new one was built. The foundation stone of the 1849 chapel was laid by Mr E. G. Kay, the owner of the Hallfold Dyeing and Bleaching Company, who gave the land to the Church, and it was lighted by gas piped across from the mill. Mr Kay's house, known as "Thorcroft" stood where the four modern bunglaows now stand adjacent to the site of the first church. The site of the first church remains as a burial ground laid out as a garden. Unfortunately, the tomb of Gilbert Holden, the most illustrious character buried here, was covered up during recent landscaping works. He lived at Intake, to the north of Whitworth Square and was executed

Old Highway near Broadley Fold

at Lancaster in 1809, along with five other counterfeiters, for uttering three forged Bank of England Notes. He was 27 years old and the day after the execution his body was handed over to his father, still with the rope round his neck.

At the junction with Wallbank Drive turn left.

Here the Rossendale Way is joined.

RW The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol.

2 Just beyond the lodge, turn left on to a footpath.

This lodge served the mill which was sited below the dam to the south east.

The path soon bears right, running between the site of the former dyeing mill and the houses to the right.

RW *The mill was originally known as "Mill House Mill" and later became known as the "Hallfold Dyeing and Raising Mill". It produced flannelette and was demolished in the 1960's.*

Cross the stone bridge and then turn immediately right down a short incline to join the line of the former railway track. Proceed in a southerly direction along the path with the River Spodden meandering to the left.

This section of the valley has recently been reclaimed with a Government Derelict Land Grant and it is intended that it should eventually form an extension to the Healey Dell Nature Reserve. To the left, across the river, was originally the former Sewage Works.

The path soon passes a small wooded valley which branches off to the right.

This is the site of Broadley Sidings and a little way up this valley is Spring Mill, one of the oldest factories in the area which is still working. This works predates the Spring Mill Reservoir which lies further to the west and was built between 1871 and 1887 by Rochdale Corporation Waterworks Company. Originally cloth was brought down from

the works to Broadley Sidings on a little tramway, worked by a cable round a drum, and vats of acid for bleaching and coal for the engines went up the same way. The small wagons ran onto a high banking above the sidings and then tipped directly into the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway wagons. A rubbing mill was also located at the siding and another tramway brought stone from a quarry on the edge of Rooley Moor. The quarry tramway closed in 1900 but the Spring Mill tramway worked until 1947, when a road was put in across Wallbank Estate.

A wooden bridge crosses over the path at the boundary of Healey Dell Nature Reserve.

Originally this bridge was rather special in design, but due to vandalism and repeated repairs it no longer has the same appearance. A little further on there are two Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway boundary stones, one on a little path going down to the river and another 200 yards further along the path where Broadley Signal formerly stood.

The site of Broadley Station is easily distinguished by the platform which remains on the right of the path.

3 Here leave the Rossendale Way taking the track which branches off up a ramp to the left. Turn right onto Station Road, a rough track which runs parallel with the former railway line for a distance and then becomes nicely paved shortly after it turns sharp left and begins to climb.

The path is waymarked by the symbol: 13

To the left is the site of Broadley Wood Mill, and immediately to the west is a lodge, which has recently had some restoration work done on it, being all that remains to-day of this former mill complex. Corduroy was manufactured here and the company went bankrupt about 1930. The stone paved road is a well preserved example of an old highway, probably largely dating from the 18th century with some 19th century repair work. This road, which predates the turnpike road on the line of Market Street, is part of the ancient highway system of the area and went up the valley via Broadley Fold along Prickshaw Lane and thence by Wallbank Lane to Hallfold.

Soon the hamlet of Broadley Fold is reached.

This is an attractive group of cottages and farm buildings dating largely from the 18th and 19th centuries, although the centre cottage is obviously the original structure by virtue of its larger stone quoins and it does have an old stone with an inscription built into the left hand jamb of the ground floor window immediately to the right of the projecting stone porch. It reads "I C reaedif 1771" which probably means "Rebuilt by John Chadwick in 1771". A family called Scholfield was living at Broadley Fold in 1642 and later families are Clegg and Lord. John Chadwick lived at Healey Hall.

At the northern end of the 18th century group of farm buildings, part of which has recently collapsed, turn left.

The group of 18th and 19th century cottages known as Prickshaw comes into view. The cottage facing with the datestone "W & SB 1823" was originally the Star Inn. There is another datestone "ICBS 1781". The group as a whole includes some interesting examples of stepped mullioned windows. The end two cottages could be special since they may show a weaver's cottage, with an upper storey loomshop and house with cellar workshop all built as one. This could represent the magic joining of two ideas!

4 Proceed straight ahead along the unsurfaced track. (An alternative route taking the green track through the gate to the right will be described later.)

Croft Head, is an interesting old farmhouse with a shippon attached which was once used by handloom weavers and was lived in until the 1950's. There is a datestone "RE 1783" over the barn entrance away from the lane.

The lane descends into a cutting and bears round to the left at an attractive old property known as "Waste House".

This was formerly the mill house attached to Waste Mill. The waterwheel and much of the mill was demolished in the late 1960's and the water power was provided by the nearby Prickshaw Dams.

A junction is soon reached. Here turn right on to a semi-surfaced lane which soon crosses a cattle grid giving access on to the attractive open moorland adjacent to a group of old properties which have been recently restored. Here take the right-hand macadamed Knacks Lane.

The mounds to the right of the lane indicate that this was once an important coalmining area and a little further on the concrete capping to an old mineshaft is visible to the right. To the left there are fine views of the centre of Rochdale dominated by seven tower blocks and beyond, to the right, the

Broadley Fold

tower of Oldham Civic Centre can be seen.

Soon a cross roads of lanes is reached.

To the left, on Rooley Moor Road, is a well preserved section of a setted road which was made during the cotton famine of the 1860's when many textile mill workers were unemployed for years and their families were starving. At this time their employers initiated what was in effect an early "job opportunity scheme" by setting up road building and improvement projects. Sections of Rooley Moor Road were paved at this time with stone setts which are still in good order to-day. Some of the setts which are badly worn were laid with the grain running the wrong way - possibly because they were put in by unskilled labour, or perhaps because cheap stone was used. Ahead is a well preserved example of an old highway with causey stones on either side and setts between.

Turn right on to Rooley Moor Road which at this point becomes unsurfaced and steadily climbs. After passing under two sets of power lines a rough track will soon be seen going off to the left and a little further on another track joins on the right, being the alternative route described.

4 Turn right on to a green track passing through a gate adjacent to the end of the hamlet of Prickshaw. Soon there is a fine view of the valley to the right dominated by Spring Mill Reservoir.

In front of the reservoir originally ran a tramway which conveyed stone from Bagden Quarry to Broadley Sidings.

After passing under the power lines to the left will be seen the retaining embankment to Prickshaw Dams.

Prickshaw Dams originally provided water power for the nearby Waste Mill.

Pass through a further gate on to the open moorland. The path now continues straight ahead gradually climbing.

To the right are the ruins of Moorside, a largely 19th century structure.

The path soon follows the line of a dismantled tramway incline.

Here pause to look back at the fine view. The spire of Healey Church can be seen to the right and beyond, through the trees in the winter months, the 18th century Healey Hall. Further to the right the tower blocks in the centre of Rochdale are visible. Also, to the right on the moorland, will be seen the concrete cappings of two disused mine shafts. The whole of the line of the dismantled tramway can easily be picked out veering round to the left towards Broadley Sidings.

At the summit a track, formerly a tramway, comes in from the right. Ignore this and continue straight ahead across the moorland still gradually climbing. As the moorland flattens out a well defined track is joined. Bear left on to this track which soon joins Rooley Moor Road. Turn right on to Rooley Moor Road.

5 Rooley Moor Road gradually climbs and a section of it soon becomes setted.

Pause and look back at the fine views over the Greater Manchester area. These setts were laid by the unemployed textile workers during the cotton famine in the 1860's and Rooley Moor Road was, therefore, often known as the "Cotton Famine Road".

As the road drops down from the summit of Top of Pike it is again extremely well surfaced with stone At the entrance to Hallfold Village the where the setts finish the Rossendale Way is joined.

Pause here and look over to the left at the fine view of the Naden Valley dominated by Knowl Hill.

6 The Rossendale Way branches off on the narrower track to the right. After about 300 yards on this track some dilapidated stone walls will be seen across the moorland to the right. Another 100 yards further on look out for a footpath branching off to the right towards them. This is the next section of the Rossendale Way which, as a guide, heads more or less directly towards the tower of St Bartholomew's Church across the valley towards a junction of stone walls one of which is a

"flagged" wall. The Rossendale Way then crosses a stream just above the junction of these walls. The path is then clearly evident passing through the stone flagged wall and re-crossing the stream on to the southern side of a small valley and round to the right of the disused Bagden Quarry.

Bagden Quarry looks as though it closed suddenly one day leaving everything just where it was. There are piles of roofing flags neatly stacked, but never taken away. There are also piles of kerbstones and the horizontal rock strata in the quarry can be clearly seen. Nearby was located the head of the tramway which carried stone down to Broadley Sidings.

At the end of the quarry workings the path drops down to run along the top of a ravine at the edge of Fern Isle Wood.

The word "Isle" is said to be wrongly spelled on the Ordnance Survey map since the wood is thought to take its name from the "Aisle" of a church due to the trees arching over the steep valley.

Up on the hill to the right, the ruins of Robin Bank come into view.

Mrs Taylor, a local historian, remembers Robin Bank and the nearby Withens farm houses being occupied in the 1940's.

Soon the Rossendale Way joins the farm track leading from Robin Bank descending with steep bends down to cross some stepping stones over the stream. Cross the stile (an alternative route from here will be described later).

The moorland from Bagden to Facit quarries, including the Fern Isle and Doctors' Wood valleys, is designated an Access Area.

7 The Rossendale Way bears right onto a grassy track climbing steeply to join the Waterworks wall at a gateway. Note the old stone built into the beginning of the wall on the right just through the gateway.

This datestone inscribed "AEH 1680" came from Bottoms Farm. The initials refer to Andrew Hoyle and Elizabeth (Rainford) Hoyle who were married in 1679.

The hamlet of Houses o'th' Hill soon comes into view and after passing through a gate the walled track turns sharp left.

Note the gable of the first building which probably dates from the 18th century and clearly shows how it was extended, possibly in the 19th century. There are a number of datestones in this hamlet with the initials "HT". This stands for Hulton's Trustees, an educational charity founded by Nathaniel Hulton of Bolton, and later London, in 1691.

At the entrance to Hallfold Village the Rossendale Way forks off to the right down a footpath.

Turn left on to a grassy track passing through a gateway and over a bridge bearing right into Danes of Doctors' Wood. Look out for the overgrown remains of "Whooping Cough Well" on the left only a few yards from the bridge. **7**

There are several references to the Danes living hereabouts and hence the name of the wood. After the fame of the Whitworth Doctors in the late 18th century the wood became known as "Doctors' Wood" since many of the herbs used grew here. Patients with Whooping Cough were sent to drink the water of the well, but it was probably the fresh air on the walk which did most good.

The green track climbs up through the wood passing below the ruins of Withens and a footpath drops down to the ancient Clam bridge in the valley below.

Withens once had datestones "HT 1821" and "HT 1889".

After crossing the bridge the path passes through a gate and then climbs steeply to a stile in a wall. The path now runs in a southerly direction and the definitive path veers off to the left to the corner of the field, which is very boggy and there is no stile. A diversion appears to be in operation continuing in a southerly direction, passing through a

gate near a stile and turning left to follow alongside the wall passing over three stiles to turn right on a lane known as New Road into Hallfold.

8 The main street of Hallfold descends fairly steeply and just before it bears round to the right look out on the left for a datestone built into the garden wall of a cottage.

This datestone "EI 1618 H" is the oldest datestone remaining in Whitworth

This came from 1 Barnside a few yards away, now demolished. Nearby in Barnside is an earlier Manse to Hallfold Chapel, still called "Old Parsonage"

Just beyond the bend, in the road known as Barnside, there are some nicely restored cottages on the right. A few yards beyond the cottages turn left into Hall Street to return to the starting point.

Clam Bridge near Doctors Wood

Ramble No 14

From Whitworth through Healey Dell and over Man Stone Edge to Whitworth Square

DISTANCE: Approximately four and a half miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Three hours.

TERRAIN: The path is well defined over virtually the whole of its route being along the line of an old railway and along old highways. The first part of the walk is through the Valley of the River Spodden and from there the climb is fairly gradual up to the moorland where the highest point reached is only just over 900 feet above sea level.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service to Whitworth from both Rochdale and Bacup.

PARKING: There is a small car park at the starting point of the walk and there is a larger car park on the east side of Market Street immediately to the south of the Dog & Partridge Inn. Further car parking is also available in Milner Street to the north of Hall Street.

Particular features of this walk are the beautiful stretches of river scenery, especially where the River Spodden cuts through the Healey Dell Gorge. These contrast with the bleak character of the small glen in which Hopwood Hall is located and further on Man Stone Edge from which fine views are obtained over expanses of wild moorland and the edge of the Greater Manchester conurbation before dropping down into Whitworth Square which is steeped in the history of the famous Whitworth Doctors.

This walk starts at the car park at the junction of Market Street and Hall Street. 1

Whitworth Square to the east, including Church Street, was designated a Conservation Area by Lancashire County Council in the early 1970's. For those interested in following an historic

Town Trail at the beginning and end of this walk a more detailed map of the Whitworth Square area is provided indicating buildings and sites of interest. The Dog & Partridge Inn provides bar snacks and meals. The property No 250 Market Street was used as a Police Station until the new Police Station was built behind the car park. Beyond on the right of Market Street is the Methodist Church which was built in 1851. The original church is behind and dates from the early part of the 19th century. Although used for many years as a school room it has recently been converted and restored and is once more used for services. Market Street forms part of the turnpike road built from Rochdale to Bacup in 1809-10.

2 Proceed in a westerly direction along Hall Street.

Cowm Park Way to the north runs along the line of the former single track railway line which was opened in 1870 and lost its passenger service in 1947. However, goods trains continued and it closed a bit at a time until finally one coal train per day ran to Joseph Taylor's coalyard at Whitworth Station between 1963 and 1967, closing altogether in August that year. The bridge carrying Hall Street with its small arch still remains and the derelict land to the south marks the site of the former Whitworth Railway Station and its adjacent goods yard. On the right across the River Spodden is Orama Mill, formerly the home of the Rochdale Wool Company. Note Hallfold Bridge with its elaborate 1901 datestone. The present United Reformed Church building was formerly the primary room of the Day School. This building, later used as the Sunday School buildings, was erected in 1872 as a Day School and was replaced in 1928 by the Tonnacliffe County Primary School. The church, which stood on the site of the new houses immediately to the west, was built in 1849 and services continued in this building until the boiler failed in 1968 when worship was transferred to the school. The building, dating from about 1864, behind the site of the former church was the Manse but no longer is so. On the left at the junction of Wallbank Drive is the site of the original Hallfold Chapel. This was built in 1710 by a group of dissenters who started meeting in a farmhouse at Fold Head as far back as 1698. By 1849 the chapel on this site had become too small and a new one was built. The foundation stone of the 1849 chapel was laid by Mr E G Kay, the owner of the Hallfold Dyeing & Bleaching Company, who gave the land to the Church, and it was lighted by gas piped across from the mill. Mr Kay's house, known as "Thorcroft" stood where the four modern bungalows now stand adjacent to the site of the first church. The site of the first church remains as a burial ground laid out as a garden. Unfortunately, the tomb of Gilbert Holden, the most illustrious character buried here, was covered up during recent landscaping works. He lived at Intake, to the north of Whitworth Square and was executed at Lancaster in 1809, along with five other counterfeiters for uttering three forged Bank of England Notes. He was 27 years old and the day after the execution his body was handed over to his father, still with the rope round his neck.

At the junction with Wallbank Drive turn left.

Here the Rossendale Way is joined.

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol.

Just beyond the Lodge, turn left on to a footpath.

This Lodge served the mill which was sited below the dam to the south-east.

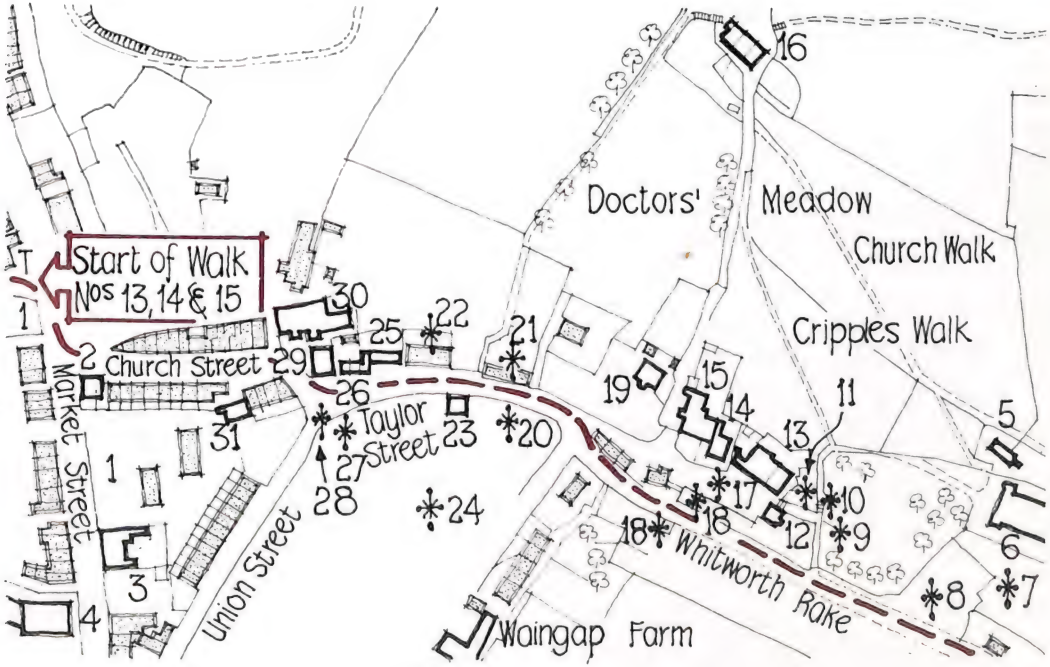
The path soon bears right, running between the site of the former dyeing mill and the houses to the right.

The mill was originally known as "Mill House Mill" and later became known as the Hallfold Dyeing & Raising Mill. It was demolished in the 1960's.

Cross the stone bridge and then turn immediately right down a short incline to join the line of the former railway track. Proceed in a southerly direction along the path with the River Spodden

Whitworth and Whitworth Square
Key to Buildings and Sites of Interest

1. Car Parks
2. Dog and Partridge Inn
3. Former Police Station
4. Methodist Church
5. Old Parsonage
6. Church of St. Bartholomew
7. Site of Old Church
8. Site of Old School
9. Stocks
10. Taylor Obelisk and Gravestones
11. Entrance to Doctor's Vault
12. Possibly Former Hospital
13. Red Lion Inn
14. Mrs. Taylor's House
15. Whitworth House
16. Calf Hey~Formerly Patients' Lodgings
17. Whitworth Square
18. Site of Former Cottages
19. New Vicarage
20. Site of Todmorden Terrace
21. Site of 17th Century Cottages
22. Formerly an Orchard
23. Cottage Formerly Patients' Lodgings
24. Show Meadow
25. 17th Century Farmhouse
26. 18th Century Cottages
27. Site of Betty Stay's House
28. Whale Bone Corner
29. Shippon with 1691 Datestone
30. Shippon with 1685 Datestone
31. 18th Century House~Croft House



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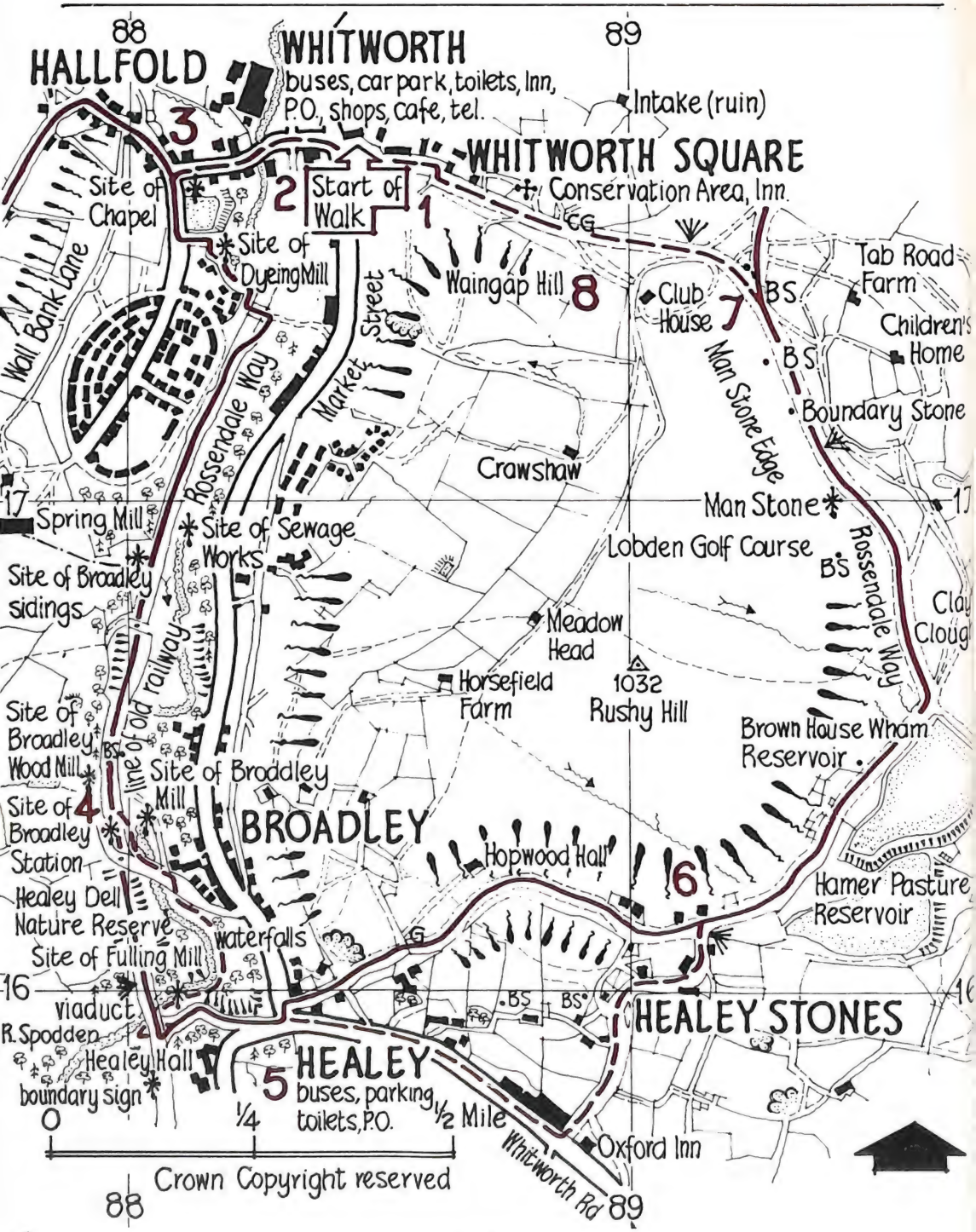

88
89
HALLFOLD
WHITWORTH
buses, car park, toilets, Inn, P.O., shops, cafe, tel.
Intake (ruin)
WHITWORTH SQUARE
Conservation Area, Inn.
3
2
Start of Walk
1
Site of Chapel
Site of Dyeing Mill
Wall Bank Lane
Rossendale Way
Market Street
Waingap Hill
8
Club House
7
BS
Tab Road Farm
Children's Home
Man Stone Edge
Boundary Stone
Crawshaw
17
Spring Mill
Site of Sewage Works
Man Stone
Lobden Golf Course
Site of Broadley sidings
Meadow Head
Horsefield Farm
1032
Rushy Hill
Brown House Wham Reservoir
Site of Broadley Wood Mill
4
line of old railway
Site of Broadley Mill
BROADLEY
Hopwood Hall
6
Hamer Pasture Reservoir
Site of Broadley Station
Healey Dell Nature Reserve
waterfalls
Site of Fulling Mill
16
viaduct
R. Spodden
Healey Hall
boundary sign
HEALEY STONES
5
HEALEY
buses, parking, toilets, P.O.
0
1/4
1/2 Mile
Whitworth Rd
Oxford Inn
Crown Copyright reserved

meandering to the left.

This section of the valley has recently been reclaimed with a Government Derelict Land Grant and it is intended that it should eventually form an extension to Healey Dell Nature Reserve. To the left, across the river, was originally the former sewage works which has now been replaced by the new Rochdale Sewage Works.

The path soon passes a small valley which branches off on the right.

This is the site of Broadley Sidings and a little way up this valley is Spring Mill, one of the oldest factories in the area which is still working. This works predates the Spring Mill Reservoir which lies further to the west and was built between 1871 and 1887 by Rochdale Corporation Waterworks Company. Originally cloth was brought down from the works to Broadley Sidings on a little tramway, worked by a cable round a drum, and vats of acid for bleaching and coal for the engines went up the same way. The small wagons ran onto a high banking above the sidings and then tipped directly into the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway wagons. A rubbing mill was also located at the siding and another tramway brought stone from a quarry on the edge of Rooley Moor. The quarry tramway closed in 1900 but the Spring Mill tramway worked until 1947, when a road was put in across the Wallbank Estate.

A wooden bridge crosses over the path at the boundary of Healey Dell Nature Reserve.

Originally this bridge was rather special in design, but due to vandalism and repeated repairs it no longer has the same appearance. A little further on there are two Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway boundary stones, one on a little path going down to the river and another 200 yards further along the path where Broadley Signal formerly stood.

The site of Broadley Station is easily distinguished by the platform which remains on the right of the path and a track branches off up a ramp to the left, being the former Station Approach.

Just to the north of the station was a level crossing, taking a footpath over to Broadley Wood Mill which was located in the elevated woodland to the right. A lodge to the west of the site of the mill is all that remains to-day since this mill which manufactured corduroy went bankrupt about 1930. To the east of the station, a water-powered mill known as Broadley Mill was located. To-day only the remains of two lodges which fed water into the mill can be seen. These ruins are haunted supposedly by the owner of the mill. The gap in the platform is where the signal box stood. This single line track was operated by "Tablet". A train couldn't pass from one section of the line to the next until the driver had received the Tablet in a black shoulder pouch from the signalman.

Here a detour may be made through the prettiest part of the Healey Dell Nature Reserve by leaving the Rossendale Way and taking the track which branches off up a ramp on the left-hand side opposite the former station platform. Turn left onto Station Road and then take the footpath on the right at the east end of the bridge over the river.

This beautiful stretch of valley is known as the "Thrutch" where the river rushes fiercely through a narrow gorge. On the right some steps descend to the river. At the bottom is the "Fairies Chapel" where the rocks are hollowed out in a shape like a church window. There is a fine view of the waterfalls behind. A few yards downstream the remains of a single stone archway across the river marks the site of an old Corn Mill dating from 1676 and powered by a water wheel. Later there was a Fulling Mill on the same site. The magnificent viaduct was built in 1866 at least in part by local labour using picks and shovels and steam cranes. It might have fallen into disrepair when the trains stopped running on this section of line in 1967. However, the main sewer was relaid down the line and is carried across the river by the viaduct.

The path climbs up passing under the viaduct and joining a macadamed lane.

Turn sharp left on to the lane which quickly leads to Healey Corner at the junction of Market Street and Shawclough Road.

4 Alternatively, continue along the Rossendale Way which passes under the bridge carrying Station Road and soon crosses the viaduct with magnificent views on either side of the wooded valley below. At the end of the viaduct take the footpath on the left-hand side which leads down to a macadamed road which climbs up through the trees to Healey Corner.

On the right-hand side at the southern end of the viaduct is the Rochdale/Whitworth boundary stone and nearby an old railway "14" sign. Up on the hill to the left in a landscaped setting is Healey Hall, an 18th century listed building on the site of a 13th century house. A former owner, Sir Samuel Turner, sold the land to the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company, but reserved the right to have the trains halted at the bottom of his garden to pick him up each morning and set him down again each evening. A private path still ascends from the end of the viaduct to the hall. A later owner of Healey Hall, Richard Heape, developed Healey Dell and laid out the paths in the 1920's. The official handbook for Healey Dell Nature Reserve, which is administered jointly by the Rochdale and Rossendale Authorities, can be obtained from the newsagent on Healey Corner or at Healey Post Office.

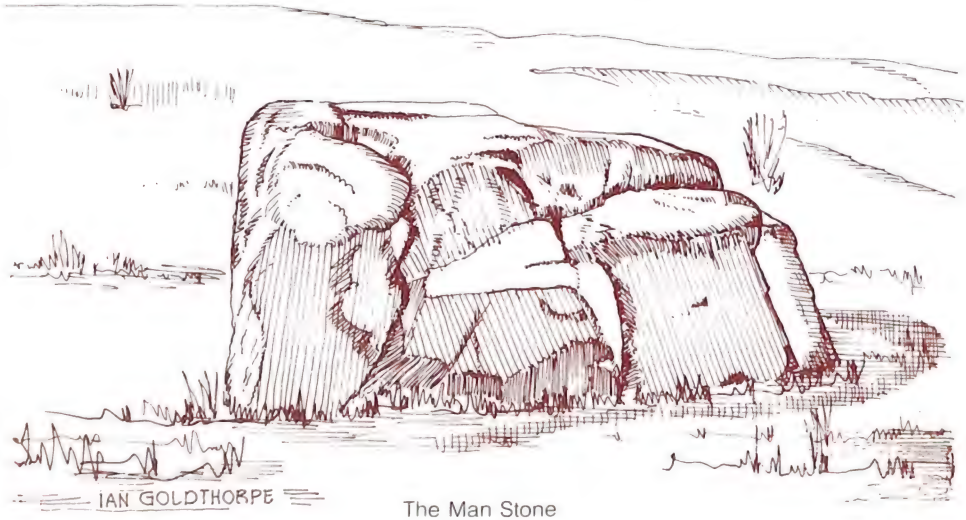
The Rossendale Way crosses Market Street and ascends the narrow lane known as Ending Rake.

For those requiring refreshments a detour can be made along Market Street and Whitworth Road to the Oxford Inn and thence via a footpath, just before the inn, leading through the old village of Healey Stones to rejoin the Rossendale Way. **5**

The Oxford Inn provides bar snacks and meals from Monday to Friday. Healey Stones is an attractive village with cottages dating mainly from the 18th century. The tall three-storey Well House, on the left-hand side of the road through the village, has an excellent range of weaving windows.

The Rossendale Way passes under an arch into open country. It then proceeds straight ahead becoming setted and passing through a metal gate. Continue along the valley and a white house known as Hopwood Hall soon comes into view. **5**

"Hall" is probably used in a derisory way since this house is very small. At the side of Hopwood Hall there was a



The Man Stone

rifle range used by the Rochdale Volunteers about the turn of the century. Until about 1850 this little valley, which could almost be a glen in the far north of Scotland, supplied fine quality paving setts for Rochdale streets.

Soon the valley opens out with cottages and an attractive green.

Over the stone wall ahead is a fine view of Hamer Pasture and Brown House Wham Reservoirs and the towns of Littleborough and Rochdale beyond.

Take the stoney lane uphill by the wall above Hamer Pasture Reservoir. **6**

Hamer Pasture Reservoir was completed in 1846 by the Rochdale

Healey Dell Fulling Mill as it appeared in the late 19th century

Corporation Waterworks Company. However, it has never held water properly and is now disused.

The remains of Brown House will soon be seen on the left.

About 1836, Brown House was the home of a collier named Robert Shaw, who was in the habit of gambling at cards with his friends. As they gambled one night by candlelight, a visitation by Satan put the friends to a fearful flight. It transpired that the visitation was no more than a sackful of turnips poured down the chimney by righteous neighbours! Brown House Wham Reservoir was completed in 1847 by the Rochdale Corporation Waterworks Company.

At the end of Brown House Wham Reservoir, bear left up the moorland track.

This route has had a busy history: The Syke Hunt would pass this way on Shrove Tuesdays to course hares on Brown Wardle, strings of Galloway ponies would descend the rough track with lime from Clitheroe or coal from Brown Wardle, and the faithful would make their weekly pilgrimage to Hallfold Chapel by this route.

The track gradually climbs up on to Man Stone Edge.

This takes its name from the large boulder to the left known as the "Man Stone" with what looks like the print of a giant's hand on it. It is said to have been thrown by a giant from Blackstone Edge to the east. There are fine views from Man Stone Edge especially to the north with the wild moors, dominated by Brown Wardle Hill on the left, and beyond which the three counties of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire join. Man Stone Edge was, in 1803, sought out for its view of Blackstone Edge and newly constructed Hollingworth Lake, by Byron, then Lord of the Manor of Rochdale, and his lover, Mary Ann Chaworth. Also to the right at this point note the typical Pennine farmhouses scattered along the hillside dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, each having a small number of cultivated fields reclaimed from the moorland. One of these farmhouses, known as "Moorland Home" is used as a children's home to give poor children from Rochdale country holidays. It was started in the 1920's by James and Frederick Lye. There are a number of boundary stones hereabouts with the letter "H" carved on one side and the letter "S" carved on the other. These initials may mean either "Hundred of Salford" or "Hundersfield and Spotland". One further north is dated 1842.

Soon over the moor to the left the flat topped red brick structure of Lobden Golf Clubhouse comes into view. At the cross roads take the tarmacadamed road to the left, leaving the Rossendale Way which continues straight ahead towards Brown Wardle.

The path is waymarked by the symbol: **7**

The site of Lobden Golf Course was for centuries the scene of the Whitworth Rushbearing when foot races, "Puncing" contests, wrestling matches, bull baiting, cock fighting and other sports took place. This annual event, which attracted people from a wide area, was promoted by the Whitworth publicans.

Ignore the track coming in from the right and after passing through a slight cutting the lane rapidly descends towards the tower of St Bartholomew's Church leaving the open moorland at a cattle grid.

To the left of the macadamed road there is a section of the original granite setted road still evident. Over to the right across the moorland the ruins of Intake, the home of Gilbert Holden, will be seen although now little more than a heap of rubble. The datestone "IMC 1680" from the old barn at Intake appears to have gone. The initials stood for James and Mary Clegg. Intake was supposed to be haunted by a baby crying - perhaps Gilbert Holden's child crying for him! Actually there are old mine shafts in the vicinity and the water makes strange noises down below.

On entering Whitworth Rake those interested in resuming the historic town **8**

Rossendale Way

14

Whitworth Stocks

trail should refer to the more detailed map of the Whitworth Square area.

The Red Lion Inn which has a datestone "IMT 1674" at the rear, provides bar snacks and meals. At the beginning of the 19th century the Whitworth Doctors and the Industrial Revolution put Whitworth on the map. The Doctors were famous in their time for their skill in bonesetting. Their approach was brusque and forthright and all the family, wives, sons and daughters worked with a team spirit, giving swift and skilled help in making and applying ointments, salves. bandages, splints and such like. Dr John (1739-1802) who married Mary Lord of Bankside, Bacup, and Dr George Taylor (1753-1804) were the most famous. Farriers and blacksmiths by trade they took over Whitworth House on the north of the Square, and patients came from far and wide. Rich and poor were all charged the same, eighteen pence a week for medicine and attendance, though the rich often made handsome presents. If a poor person could not pay the money was never asked for and patients stayed as long as they pleased and left when they pleased. They had many lodgings in the village and there was a subscription box left to help such of the poor that could not help themselves, and when John Taylor heard of any great need amongst them he would carry round the box himself amongst the more affluent of his patients and he also contributed liberally. Mrs John Taylor (1745-1805) and Mrs George Taylor (1761-1830) are said to have compounded the medicines for the Doctors, often in a most primitive manner. The principal remedies used were a diet drink to purify the blood, a caustic compound called "Keen" with which they eradicated cancers, a spiritous liniment called "Whitworth Red Bottle", a black salve, and a snuff of wonderous virtues for the head and blisters. The liniment "Whitworth Red Bottle" can still be bought locally at A J Nuttall, Chemist. They made diet drinks by the gallon, and pills by the thousand. John's son, James, never married. He also followed the family

Town Trail

tradition and rode great distances to visit patients. As he became older he grew very stout and became most eccentric. About sixteen members of the Taylor family practised medicine and James Eastwood Taylor (1822-1876) was the last of the Whitworth Doctors. He passed the examinations of the College of Surgeons in 1845 and those of the Apothecaries Hall in 1846. In character he was gentle and refined and had many hobbies and interests and was the first President of the Whitworth Horticultural Society. On his death in 1876, at the early age of 54, he was given a public funeral and his grave is marked by a marble obelisk in Whitworth Churchyard. Between them the Whitworth Doctors treated many famous people, including a Duchess, Officers in the Indian Army , and Archibald Campbell Tait later to become Archbishop of Canterbury, who was born locally. There is a brass plaque in Lloyd Street Church of England School stating that the Archbishop had started his education in the school. The foundation stone of St Bartholomew's Church was laid in 1847 by James Taylor JP of Todmorden Hall.

The building was designed by Joseph Clarke and is externally a fine example of a Victorian church designed in the Perpedicular Style which has been much influenced by the 15th century woollen churches of East Anglia. The large gargoyles, fine carvings and buttresses, with flint and engineering brick inlay, are a particular feature of the building, but sadly its future is in doubt due to extensive dryrot and more recently a fire. Note the old Parsonage building behind the church and the old stocks in the churchyard.

Leave Whitworth Rake and Whitworth Square by Taylor Street.

Note Orchard Cottage on the right dating from 1692 and the two shippons at the junction with Church Street with the datestones 1691 and 1685.

Bear off to the right into Church Street and return to the starting point.

The 18th century house on the left has recently had its south elevation restored to what may have been its original appearance.

Town Trail

Ramble No 15

From Whitworth over Brown Wardle and Hades Hill to Shawforth, Tong End and Hallfold

DISTANCE: Approximately seven miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Four and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The path is generally easy to follow, part of the route being along an old highway. The first part of the walk involves a climb up on to Brown Wardle which is fairly gradual until a short steep section near the summit, which rises to just over 1,300 feet above sea level. The path is then undulating, crossing over Middle and Hades Hills before quickly dropping down to Shawforth. Across the valley there is a short steep climb up to Cowm Top Farm.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service to Whitworth from both Rochdale and Bacup.

PARKING: There is a small car park at the starting point of the walk and a larger car park on the east side of Market Street immediately to the south of the Dog & Partridge Inn. Further car parking is also available in Milner Street to the north of Hall Street.

Particular features of this walk are the fine views, especially to the east and the west, from the Rossendale Way as it follows the ancient Limers' Gate over Brown Wardle and along the ridge beyond. There are also fine views along the return path on the west side of the Spodden Valley.

1 This walk starts at the car park at the junction of Market Street and Hall Street.

Whitworth Square to the east, including Church Street, was designated a Conservation Area by Lancashire County Council in the early 1970's. Those interested in following an historic trail through the Conservation Area, which is associated with the famous "Whitworth Doctors", should refer to the more detailed map of Whitworth Square attached to Ramble No 14 indicating buildings and sites of interest. The Dog & Partridge Inn provides bar snacks and meals. The property No 250 Market Street, dated 1873, was used as a Police Station until the new Police Station was built behind the car park. Beyond, on the right of Market Street, is the Methodist Church which was built in 1851. The original church is behind and dates from the early part of the 19th century. Although used for many years as a schoolroom it has recently been converted and restored and is once more used for services. Market Street forms part of the turnpike road built from Rochdale to Burnley in 1809-10.

Cross over Market Street and proceed along Church Street.

On the right, set back, is Croft House dating from the 18th century which has recently had its south elevation restored to what may have been its original appearance. There is said to be a datestone "IH 1726' hidden inside.

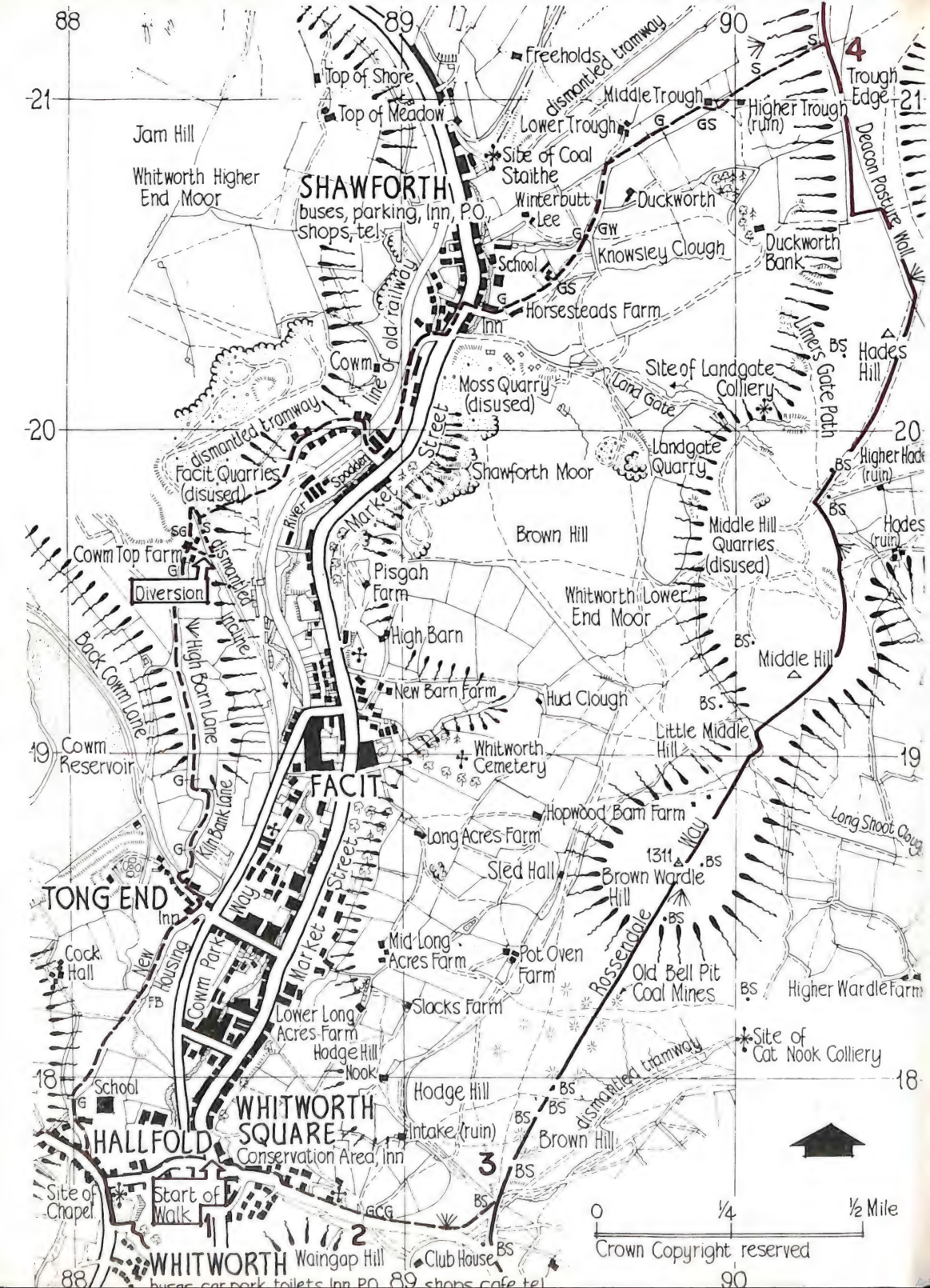
Bear left into Taylor Street.

Note the two shippons on the left with the datestones 1691 and 1685. Opposite is Whale Bone Corner and the site of Betty Stays' house which is where the "stays" or whalebone corsets were made for the Whitworth Doctors' patients.

The setted road marks the approach to Whitworth Square itself.

At the beginning of the 19th century the Whitworth Doctors and the Industrial Revolution put Whitworth on the map. The Doctors were famous in their time for their skill in bonesetting. Their approach was brusque and forthright, and all the family, wives, sons and daughters worked with a team spirit, giving swift and skilled help in making and applying ointments, salves, bandages, splints and such like. Dr John (1739-1802) who married Mary Lord of Bankside, Bacup, and Dr George Taylor (1753-1804) were the most famous. Farriers and blacksmiths by trade they took over Whitworth House, on the left of the Square, and patients came from far and wide. Rich and poor were all charged the same, eighteen pence a week for medicine and attendance, though the rich often made handsome presents. If a poor person could not pay, the money was never asked for and patients stayed as long as they pleased and left when they pleased. They had many lodgings in the village and there was a subscription box left to help such of the poor that could not help themselves, and when John Taylor heard of any great need amongst them he would carry round the box himself amongst the more affluent of his patients and he also contributed liberally. Mrs John Taylor (1745-1805) and Mrs George Taylor (1761-1830) are said to have compounded the medicines for the Doctors, often in a most primitive manner. The principal remedies used were a diet drink to purify the blood, a

Town Trail


88
89
90
21
20
19
18
Freeholds
dismantled tramway
Top of Shore
Top of Meadow
Middle Trough
Lower Trough
Higher Trough (ruin)
Trough Edge
4
Deacon Pasture Wall
Jam Hill
Whitworth Higher End Moor
Site of Coal Staithe
SHAWFORTH
buses, parking, Inn, P.O. shops, tel.
Winterbutt Lee
Duckworth
Duckworth Bank
Knowsley Clough
School
Horsesteads Farm
Inn
line of old railway
Cowm
Moss Quarry (disused)
Site of Landgate Colliery
Land Gate
Limers Gate Path
Hades Hill
dismantled tramway
Facit Quarries (disused)
River Spodden
Market Street
Shawforth Moor
Landgate Quarry
Higher Hades (ruin)
Hades (ruin)
Cowm Top Farm
Diversion
dismantled incline
Brown Hill
Middle Hill Quarries (disused)
Pisgah Farm
Whitworth Lower End Moor
High Barn
Back Cowm Lane
High Barn Lane
New Barn Farm
Hud Clough
Middle Hill
Cowm Reservoir
Whitworth Cemetery
Little Middle Hill
FACIT
Hopwood Barn Farm
Long Shoot Clough
Kiln Bank Lane
Long Acres Farm
1311
Sled Hall
Brown Wardle Hill
Way
TONG END
Inn
Cock Hall
New Housing
Cowm Park Way
Market Street
Mid Long Acres Farm
Pot Oven Farm
Rossendale Way
Old Bell Pit Coal Mines
Higher Wardle Farm
Slocks Farm
Lower Long Acres Farm
Hodge Hill Nook
Site of Cat Nook Colliery
School
WHITWORTH SQUARE
Conservation Area, Inn
HALLFOLD
Intake (ruin)
Brown Hill
dismantled tramway
3
Site of Chapel
Start of Walk
2
Waingap Hill
Club House
WHITWORTH
buses, car park, toilets, Inn, P.O. shops, cafe, tel.
0
¼
½ Mile
Crown Copyright reserved

caustic compound called "Keen" with which they eradicated cancers, a spiritous liniment called "Whitworth Red Bottle", a black salve, and a snuff of wonderous virtues for the head and blisters. The liniment "Whitworth Red Bottle" can still be bought locally at A J Nuttall, Chemist. They made diet drinks by the gallon, and pills by the thousand. John's son, James, never married. He also followed in the family tradition and rode great distances to visit patients. As he became older he grew very stout and became most eccentric. About sixteen members of the Taylor family practised medicine and James Eastwood Taylor (1822-1876) was the last of the Whitworth Doctors. He passed the examinations of the College of Surgeons in 1845 and those of the Apothecaries Hall in 1846. In character he was gentle and refined and had many hobbies and interests and was the first President of the Whitworth Horticultural Society. On his death in 1876, at the early age of 54, he was given a public funeral and his grave is marked by a marble obelisk in Whitworth Churchyard. Between them the Whitworth Doctors treated many famous people, including a Duchess, Officers in the Indian Army and Archibald Campbell Tait, later to become Archbishop of Canterbury, who was born locally. There is a brass plaque in Lloyd Street Church of England School stating that the Archbishop had started his education in the school. The Red Lion Inn, which has a datestone "IMT 1674" at the side, provides bar snacks and meals. The foundation stone of St Batholomew's Church was laid in 1847 by James Taylor JP of Todmorden Hall. The building was designed by Joseph Clarke and is externally a fine example of a Victorian church designed in the Perpendicular Style which has been much influeneced by the 15th century woollen churches of East Anglia. The large gargoyles, fine carvings and buttresses, with flint and engineering brick inlay, are a particular feature of the building, but sadly its future is in doubt due to extensive dryrot and more recently a fire. Note the old Parsonage building behind the church and the old stocks in the churchyard.

Leave Whitworth Square continuing uphill along Whitworth Rake, passing through a gate to the left of a cattle grid, on to the open moor. Ignore the steep macadamed road branching off to the right to Lobden Golf Course and continue ahead along the moor road. **2**

The site of Lobden Golf Course was for centuries the scene of the Whitworth Rushbearing when foot races, kicking or "puncing" contests which competitors entered naked except for their clogs and injuries were horrific and sometimes fatal, wrestling matches, bull baiting, cockfighting and other sports took place. This annual event, which attracted people from a wide area, was promoted by the Whitworth publicans. To the right of the macadamed road there is a section of the original granite setted road still evident. Over to the left across the moorland the ruins of "Intake", the home of Gilbert Holden, will be seen although now little more than a heap of rubble. The datestone "IMC 1680" (James and Mary Clegg), from the barn at Intake now appears to have gone. Gilbert Holden was executed at Lancaster in 1809, along with five other counterfeiters, for uttering three forged Bank of England Notes. He was 27 years old and the day after the execution his body was handed over to his father still with the rope round his neck. Over to the left Brown Wardle Hill comes into view and on a clear day the Rossendale Way can be seen climbing up to the summit.

At the point where the macadamed road bends slightly round to the right to go through a little cutting branch off to the left on an unsurfaced track.

Soon there is evidence of stone flags on either side denoting that this was once an important highway possibly dating back to the 18th century. The embankment to the right used to carry a tramway from Cat Nook Colliery half a mile away.

At a crossroads of tracks bear left by a boundary stone dated 1844. Here the Rossendale Way is joined. **3**

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol:

From here there are fine views, especially over to the south east, with Hollingworth Lake and beyond it the viaduct carrying the M62 motorway.

Strike off to the left across the open moorland making for the summit of Brown Wardle. A series of boundary stones mark the route.

This is the boundary between Rochdale and Rossendale. Most of the boundary stones have the letter "H" carved on one side and the letter "S" carved on the reverse. A few in addition have "W" and "W" carved as well. These initials may mean "Hundred of Salford" or "Hundersfield and Spotland" and the "W" 's probably stand for "Whitworth and Wardle", although these two Urban Districts were only established in the 1890's.

A little valley is crossed before the steep climb up on to the summit of Brown Wardle.

This stiff climb was a favourite cure prescribed by the Whitworth Doctors to patients lacking exercise and appetite. Nearby are the sites of some early Bell Pit coal mines. A short distance to the west is Pot Oven Farm, which is probably located on a site where earthenware pipes and chimney pots etc. were once manufactured. There is evidence on the edge of the summit of some early quarrying.

Pause at the top and look at the splendid view over the Pennines and the Greater Manchester area to the south.

On a clear day the Cheshire Plain and Peak District hills can be seen. On a very clear day the mountains of North Wales can be seen. The grassy plateau with its litter of small boulders is unusual.

From the triangulation point descend in a north-easterly direction to the saddle, then ascend rightward to the top of a drystone wall.

There are fine views over part of Shawforth to the left, where the road climbs over the pass to Britannia and Bacup, and to the right over a wild Pennine valley with the Watergrove Reservoir beyond. Carefully engineered channels follow round the contours hereabouts carrying the water into the reservoir.

From here the path contours around the right-hand shoulder of Middle Hill for 500 yards, descending gently below quarry spoil before climbing a small clough to the left above the ruins of Hades and its pattern of ruined enclosure walls, to a wall corner and a boundary stone.

These remote moorland farms were sometimes "hush houses" where illicit home-brewed ale or "brugy" was sold at three halfpence per quart. There are fine views of the head of the wild Pennine valley to the east with much evidence of coalmining in years gone by.

A few yards beyond the boundary stone take the quarry track to the right for 150 yards before bearing leftward over the summit of Hades Hill.

Recent excavations on this top have uncovered the remains of a Bronze Age burial barrow (circa 1300 B.C.). A single barrow would be unusual and it is thought that there may be others hereabouts awaiting discovery, possibly on Brown Wardle. Hang gliding enthusiasts regularly use Hades and Middle Hill.

Proceed in a north-easterly direction to find and follow the boundary known as "Deacon Pasture Wall" northward to the meeting of the counties of Lancashire, Greater Manchester, and West Yorkshire at the start of a long triangular enclosure.

Fine views are obtained eastwards across Foul Clough into Calderdale dominated by Stoodley Pike in the middle distance.

Cross the wall to the left and follow the enclosure northward.

This route known as the Limers' Gate was once the route of Galloway ponies, tied together in strings of twenty or thirty. Each pony carried up to 2 cwts of coal in panniers, and the lead pony

Rossendale Way

would have bells on its collar to warn travellers of its approach. The drivers of the lime-gals led arduous lives, sometimes sleeping out on these moors with their beasts and valuable cargoes. Alice Ashworth known as Ailse O'Fussers lived in these parts and worked from Landgate Colliery just west of the route.

Look out for a stile in the wall to the left, just before the walled track commences, and leave the Rossendale Way.

4 *A view of the Spodden Valley unfolds with evidence of colliery spoil heaps from where the Galloway ponies carried the coal. After the construction of the turnpike roads, and the development of the railway system, tramways were used to move the coal from the collieries which in turn were linked to coal staithes, or loading platforms.*

15 The path is waymarked by the symbol.

The path descends steeply alongside a wall to a further stile and to the north of the ruins of Higher Trough.

Higher Trough has an interesting projecting two-storey porch and a dovecote and dates largely from the 18th century.

Pass through a stile to the right of a gate adjacent to Middle Trough and continue downhill on a track which becomes walled at the next gate. Just beyond the lane leading off to the left to Duckworth pass through a gateway and look out for a small footpath gate opposite at a point where the track bends to the left. The footpath crosses a meadow soon joining a lane which quickly leads past Holly Mount into Shawforth. Turn left on to Market Street.

The Red Lion Inn on the left will provide bar snacks and meals if prior arrangements are made with the landlord. Notice the unusual stone faces and an 1850 date under the troughing.

In a few yards turn right on to an unmade road, just before the public conveniences, and then left into Cowm Street. The path runs parallel with the line of the old railway turning right into Oak Street.

This section of railway line between Facit and Bacup was opened in 1881, the section lower down the valley between Rochdale and Facit opening in 1870. It lost its passenger service in 1947 and continued as a goods line for a few more years.

Pass between the abutments of the former railway bridge into the new housing development known as "Oak Close". Where the surfaced road terminates continue in a southerly direction into the open country. After 100 yards strike up to the right on a footpath heading towards Cowm Top Farm which is visible on the skyline.

Adjacent to a new fence the path crosses the line of the dismantled tramway which linked the disused Facit Quarries to the main railway line. To the left is a fine view down the dismantled incline.

The definitive path here is temporarily diverted 50 yards to the left to a gate. The path then passes through the farm buildings to a gate adjacent to the farmhouse giving access on to the walled High Barn Lane. For 200 yards follow the wide and unattractive quarry road before rejoining High Barn Lane. which branches off to the left.

St Bartholomew's Church is a conspicious landmark across the valley. This lane is part of the old highway network of the Spodden Valley before the turnpike road was built. In places it is considerably depressed below the ground, caused by traffic wearing away the ground over the years, with stone walls on either side. Near the first bend there is a section which retains its original paving and there are various odd flat stones along the route which suggest that this road was largely paved in the 18th century.

After passing through the second gate turn immediately right into a walled track which quickly leads into the old village of Tong End.

Here a number of cottages date back to the 18th century and probably earlier.

Turn left through the village and right into Cock Hall Lane at the Cock & Magpie Inn. Turn off Cock Hall Lane into New Way passing through a new

The oldest datestone remaining in Whitworth at Halford

housing development. Take the footpath at the end of the cul-de-sac which crosses a stone footbridge. An attractive stone flagged path then soon leads along the side of Whitworth Comprehensive School playing fields to a gate at the entrance to Hallfold Village.

Here there are a number of cottages dating from the 17th and 18th centuries and those in Water Street to the left are particularly attractive. If you have acute powers of observation you may notice a datestone upside down used as a door lintel. On the right, in Barnside is an earlier Manse to Hallfold Chapel dating from 1743 which is still called "Old Parsonage". Opposite is a datestone built into the wall of a cottage. This datestone "EI 1618 H" is the oldest datestone remaining in Whitworth and came from the demolished house at No 1 Barnside, a few yards away.

Continue ahead and turn left into Hall Street.

On the right at the junction with Wallbank Drive is the site of the original Hallfold Chapel. This was built in 1718 by a group of dissenters who started meeting in a farmhouse at Fold Head as far back as 1698. By 1849 the Chapel on this site had become too small and a new one was built across the road and then, in 1872, a Day School was built immediately to the east of the new Chapel. The site of the first church remains as a burial ground laid out as a garden. Unfortunately, the tomb of Gilbert Holden, the most illustrious character buried here, was covered up during recent landscaping works. Its simple inscription read "GH 1809".

A few yards along Hall Street on the left is the United Reformed Church.

This building is the former Day School erected in 1872 and the Hall Fold Congregational Chapel built in 1849 stood on the site, immediately to the west, which is occupied by new houses. Behind is the Manse, erected about 1864, but no longer used for its original purpose. The foundation stone of the 1849 chapel was laid by Mr E G Kay, who gave the land and was the owner of the Hallfold Dyeing and Bleaching Company, and it was lighted by gas piped across from the mill. Mr Kay's house, known as "Thorcroft" stood where the four modern bungalows now stand adjacent to the site of the first church.

The Hallfold Bridge carries Hall Street across the River Spodden.

This bridge has an elaborate datestone which records that it was opened for traffic by the Chairman of Whitworth Urban District Council, Mr B F Stuttard Esq. JP November 1901. On the left is

Higher Trough

Orama Mill, formerly the home of the Rochdale Wool Company. It was originally called Thor Mill but was renamed after a ship which sank, drowning the owner's son.

Hall Street then crosses the bridge through which the former single track railway line passed.

This section of the line was opened in 1870 and lost its passenger service in 1947 but the goods trains continued, and it closed a bit at a time until finally one coal train per day ran to Joseph Taylor's coalyard at Whitworth Station between 1963 and 1967, closing altogether in August that year. The disused land to the right is the site of the station and coalyard. Cowm Park Way to the left runs along the line of the former railway.

Continuing along Hall Street the starting point is soon reached.

Ramble No 16

From Shawforth along the Limers' Gate to Sharneyford and on to Britannia

DISTANCE: Approximately eight miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Five and a half hours.

TERRAIN: The path is generally easy to follow, much of the first half of the route being along or near the ancient Limers' Gate. Apart from the initial steep climb up on to Trough Edge from Shawforth the whole of the route is relatively level, or undulating, a long section being roughly along the 1,400 feet contour.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a frequent bus service to Shawforth from both Rochdale and Bacup.

PARKING: There is parking space near the beginning of the walk in the vicinity of the Red Lion Inn.

Particular features of this walk are the fine views from much of the route, especially to the east and west, from the Rossendale Way as it follows the ancient Limers' Gate northwards along the high ridge which forms the Pennine watershed at this point. The return route through many of the farmsteads is also elevated for much of its way with attractive views.

1 This walk starts at the Red Lion Inn on the east side of Market Street in Shawforth.

The Red Lion Inn will provide bar snacks and meals if prior arrangements are made with the landlord. Notice the unusual stone faces and an 1850 date under the troughing.

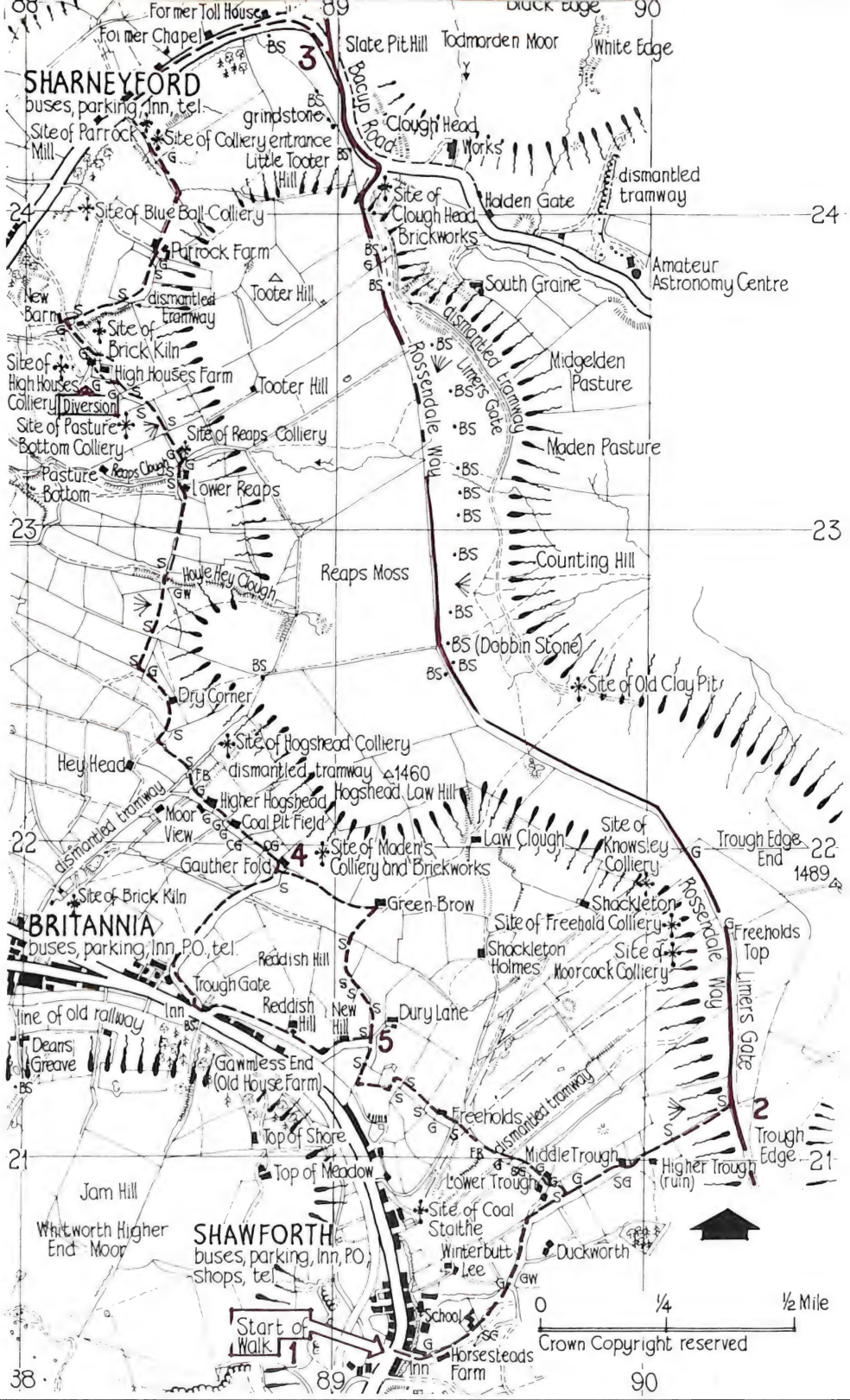
Proceed for a few yards northwards along Market Street and turn right into Moss Side Street, leaving by the gate beyond the row of houses on the left on a lane with flagstones on either side. Beyond Holly Mount, on the left, leave the lane crossing the meadow ahead to a gate. Follow the walled farm track past the gate to Lower Trough uphill to a gate and thence across a meadow to Middle Trough. Here pass through a stile to the left of a gate on the right-hand side of the farm track. The path follows to the north of Higher Trough now climbing steeply.

The path is waymarked by the symbol. 16

Higher Trough has an interesting two-storey porch and a dovecote and dates largely from the 18th century.

The path keeps fairly close to a wall climbing up the steep hill partly alongside a gully. After crossing two stiles Freeholds Top is reached where the Rossendale Way, running along the line of the ancient Limers' Gate, is joined.

There is much evidence of coalmining hereabouts and a little distance to the north were a number of collieries with an elaborate system of tramway links.


Former Toll House
Former Chapel
BS
3
Slate Pit Hill
Todmorden Moor
Black Edge
White Edge
SHARNEYFORD
buses, parking, Inn, tel.
grindstone
Site of Parrock Mill
Site of Colliery entrance
Little Tooter Hill
Bacup Road
Clough Head Works
dismantled tramway
Site of Blue Ball Colliery
Site of Clough Head Brickworks
Holden Gate
Parrock Farm
Tooter Hill
South Graine
Amateur Astronomy Centre
New Barn
dismantled tramway
Site of Brick Kiln
Site of High Houses Colliery
High Houses Farm
Diversion
Tooter Hill
Rossendale Way
Limers Gate
Midgelden Pasture
Site of Pasture Bottom Colliery
Site of Reaps Colliery
Reaps Clough
Pasture Bottom
Lower Reaps
Maden Pasture
Reaps Moss
Counting Hill
Hoyle Hey Clough
BS (Dobbin Stone)
Site of Old Clay Pits
Dry Corner
Site of Hogshead Colliery
Hey Head
dismantled tramway
1460
Hogshead Law Hill
Higher Hogshead
Moor View
Coal Pit Field
Law Clough
Site of Knowsley Colliery
Trough Edge End
1489
Gauther Fold
4
Site of Maden's Colliery and Brickworks
Site of Brick Kiln
Green Brow
Shackleton
Site of Freehold Colliery
Freeholds Top
BRITANNIA
buses, parking, Inn, P.O., tel.
Reddish Hill
Shackleton Holmes
Site of Moorcock Colliery
Trough Gate
Reddish Hill
New Hill
Dury Lane
Line of old railway
Inn
Dearns Greave
5
Gawmless End (Old House Farm)
Freeholds
dismantled tramway
Top of Shore
Middle Trough
Higher Trough (ruin)
Trough Edge
2
Top of Meadow
Lower Trough
Jam Hill
Site of Coal Staithe
Whitworth Higher End Moor
SHAWFORTH
buses, parking, Inn, PO, shops, tel.
Winterbutt
Lee
Duckworth
Start of Walk
1
School
Horsesteads Farm
Inn
0
¼
½ Mile
Crown Copyright reserved
24
23
22
21
38
89
90

Knowsley and Freehold collieries had both finished operating by 1890 but Moorcock Colliery was worked in the 1950's.

2 Turn left on to the Rossendale Way which is walled on each side.

RW

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol.

This ancient route known as the Limers' Gate was once the route of Galloway ponies, tied together in strings of twenty or thirty. Each pony carried up to two cwts. of coal in panniers, and the lead pony would have bells on its collar to warn travellers of its approach. The drivers of the lime-gals led arduous lives, sometimes sleeping out on these moors with their beasts and valuable cargoes. Alice Ashworth known as Ailse O'Fussers lived in these parts and worked from Landgate Colliery just west of the route. This walled section of track, it is supposed, allowed for livestock droving and the width between gives some idea of its former importance.

At the end of the walled section pass through a gate continuing ahead alongside a dilapidated wall and then across an open field to a further gate.

It can be boggy near this gate but there are some stepping stones.

Follow the fine wall to the left which runs along the county boundary.

This ridge is also the Pennine watershed and, if caught by bad weather, the words of John Aikin, written in 1795, might be thought appropriate!

"It is commonly observed that the whole western side of the Kingdom is more subject to rain than the eastern, the evident cause of which is that it first receives the clouds from the Atlantic Ocean, by which this island is principally watered. The situation of Lancashire, in a peculiar manner, exposes it to the operation of this general cause, as the hills which form its line of separation from Yorkshire arrest the clouds in their progress, and cause them to deposit their contents, hence the quantity of rain that falls is augmented in proportion to the nearness of the hills".

Follow alongside the wall on the left for a mile or so. A line of boundary stones on the moor to the right soon mark the official county boundary, and there are fine views over Calderdale to the east.

To the right is the site of an old clay pit which was linked to the Clough Head Brickworks by a tramway which partly ran along the line of the ancient Limers' Gate. Near the beginning of this line of boundary stones is one with a letter "T" and lying horizontal. It is marked on old maps as the "Dobbin Stone".

On the left is a large wet saddle known as Reaps Moss and beyond a rounded hill known as Tooter Hill.

"Tooter" is the old name for "lookout". In 1791, William Byron, Lord of the Manor of Rochdale, started litigation to restrain one Simon Dearden from gaining coal from these hills. Noel, Lord Byron, the poet, inherited the estate and the law suit with it. In 1814 adjacent land owners built these enclosure walls on the common. By the 1820's Byron, deserted by his wife, Anne, and tired of these legal wrangles, left for Europe. Short of money, he wrote to Dearden from Genoa in September 1822, asking him to buy the manor and so end the quarrel. This Dearden did, and Byron was able to extend his tour to Greece where, on April 19th 1824, he died from a fever. Thus, these hills were in part responsible for Byron's flight to Europe, his best poetry and, finally, his death.

The Bacup/Todmorden Road comes into view ahead.

There is evidence of coalmining to the right and it is said that there are coal seams between two and four feet thick in this area.

Shortly the route is taken over by a farm track which comes in from the left.

To the right, a little way down on the left of the valley, will be seen the Amateur Astronomy Centre which is located on the site of the former "Middle Shop" pipeworks. This is an ambitious project to produce a nationally important centre for those

Rossendale Way

interested in astronomy, which was put forward in 1982 by a few enthusiasts led by Peter Drew, a Bacup man. It is to include a forty inch reflecting telescope which will make it the largest optical telescope in the country.

Pass through a gate and then join the main Bacup/Todmorden Road near the remains of a brick building turning left. Follow the road over the summit back into Rossendale.

On the left, in a field, is an old grindstone.

Leave the Rossendale Way, which continues ahead on the lane forking off to the right, just before the second bend.

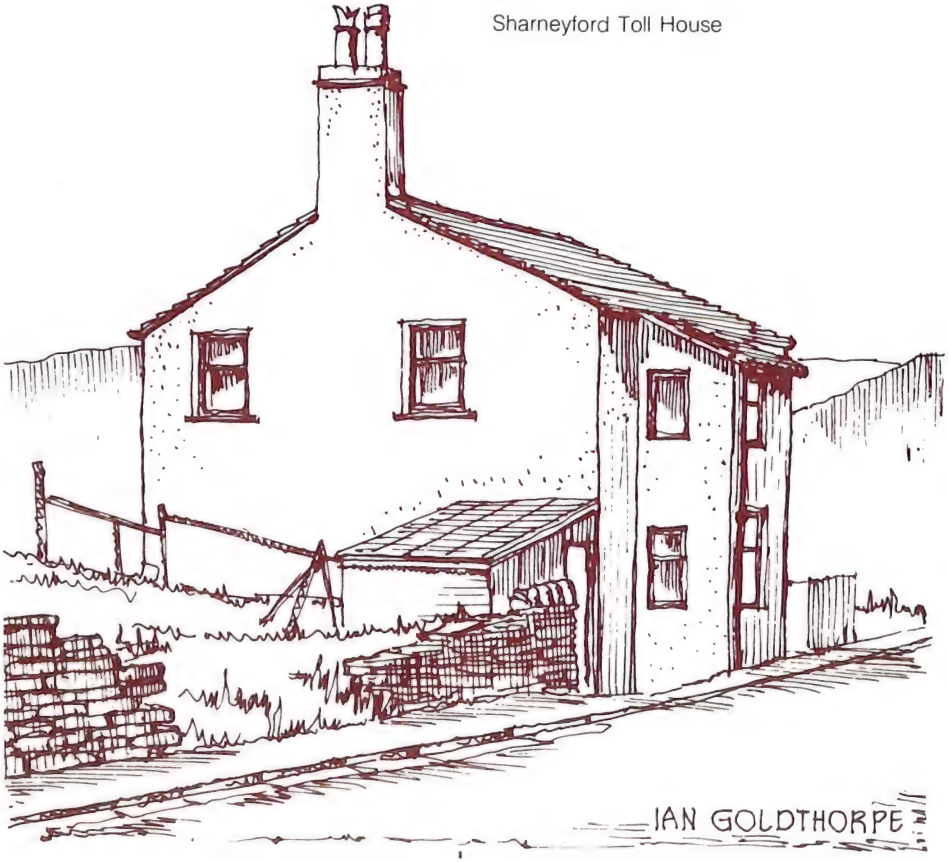
Cross the county boundary from West Yorkshire back into Lancashire. **3**

An attractive sign presented by the Rotary Club of Todmorden in 1959 marks the Todmorden boundary. Nearby is the old stone wall upon which the original West Riding of Yorkshire boundary sign was mounted.

Nearby, on the right, is a white painted building which was formerly the Sharneyford Toll House and opposite is a boundary stone.

This toll house was built at the same time as the turnpike road. Note the bay window, hard up against the

Sharneyford Toll House



carriageway, enabling the toll keeper to have a good view of approaching traffic in each direction. The next building on the right, below Heap Hey which is a good example of a carefully restored farmhouse, was formerly Sharneyford Chapel and was used as a garage for Hargreaves Colliery steam wagon between 1914 and the late 1920's. On the left of the road the land was very derelict until it was reclaimed by Lancashire County Council in the mid 1970's as part of the Greave Clough land reclamation scheme. Nearby on the left, opposite the isolated terrace of houses, is the site of the entrance to Old Meadows Colliery used by the miners.

Continue downhill into Sharneyford taking the first track off to the left.

Immediately on the left of the track is the site of Parrock Mill. Although the chimney was only about 50ft. in height it was notable since its top at 1,175 ft. was the highest above sea level in the whole of England.

Pass through a gate, at the far side of the first field, and proceed along a grassy path through the second field to turn right behind a wall to Parrock Farm. Take a gate opposite the front door of the farmhouse passing through a small paddock and then across a meadow to a stile following alongside the line of a dismantled tramway down to New Barn. Turn left on to the lane to High Houses Farm.

Nearby is the site of a brick kiln and High Houses Colliery which closed in 1890.

Here the definitive path appears to have been diverted. It should pass through some stiles to the north of High Houses Farm. The diversion in use appears to pass round the front of High Houses Farm through a series of gates and stiles towards Lower Reaps.

On the right, in a field, can be seen the site of Pasture Bottom Colliery which closed in 1916. To the north of Lower Reaps is Reaps Colliery which closed in 1840. There is a fine view to the right from this section of path over the Rossendale Valley with Bacup below.

Adjacent to the site of Reaps Colliery pass through a gate to a track turning right through a further gate and left over two stiles on the west side of farm buildings to Lower Reaps. The path proceeds in a southerly direction crossing a stile and a footbridge in Hoyle Hey Clough proceeding up a track in the field beyond.

There are fine views to the west from here and, on a clear day, Darwen Tower can be picked out on the skyline.

Continue ahead, crossing a stile and a further stile, turning left on to a farm track passing through a gate to Dry Corner. The path now continues south across a meadow to a stile turning right on to a track for a few yards and then turning left past a pylon to Higher Hogshead, first crossing a stile, a stream and passing through a gate.

This section of path crosses the line of two tramways, which served Hogshead Colliery to the east which was operating in the 1880's. To the right will be seen the attractive property known as "Moor View" in its landscaped setting which dates from the Victorian period or earlier. Higher Hogshead is largely 18th century with some stepped mullioned windows. There is evidence of an old road with two lines of causey stones and setts between.

After passing through a series of three gates Coal Pit Field is reached and beyond, after crossing two cattle grids, Gauther Fold.

Nearby is the site of Ann Maden's Colliery and Brickworks. Note the red spoil heaps.

Take the stile a few yards on the left on the lane below Gauther Fold to Green Brow and thence southwards by a series of stiles to cross the farm road between New Hill and Dury Lane. (Unfortunately, the latter section of this path was blocked at the time of writing and so an alternative route through Britannia is described.) **4**

From Gauther Fold take the lane downhill to Britannia turning left to cross the boundary from Rochdale Road into Market Street, Shawforth. **4**

The Travellers Rest on the left will provide bar snacks and meals if prior arrangement is made with the landlord (Tel: Bacup 873400).

In a few yards turn left up the farm road past Reddish Hill, Gawmless End and New Hill to turn right onto a walled grassy lane.

Gawmless End was originally built as "Old House Farm" during the 18th century and was partly reconstructed in the 19th century to incorporate a substantial weather wall against the prevailing winds and rain, complete with battlements. The name "Gawmless End" was given to it by a local resident.

5 At the end of the walled lane cross a stile to follow round the southern end of a small lodge then through three stiles and a gate to Freeholds. A few yards beyond Freeholds cross the stile ahead, at a junction of tracks, crossing a footbridge and proceeding along a green path to a walled lane and then across a field to Lower Trough.

This section of path crosses the lines of a series of dismantled tramways which served Knowsley, Freehold and Moorcock Collieries.

Pass through a gate across the farmyard making for a stile at the far side of the field to turn right on to a walled track.

There are some fine examples of stone flag walling hereabouts.

Follow the route described at the beginning of this walk back into Shawforth.

Ramble No 17

A Link Walk between the Rossendale and Calderdale Ways starting at Sharneyford

DISTANCE: Approximately ten miles.

TIME REQUIRED: Seven hours.

TERRAIN: Apart from a short section across the open moor the path is easy to follow, much of the route being along old highways and farm tracks. The walk starts near the 1,250 ft. contour and much of the first half of the walk is undulating, or downhill, the only steep climb being the section from Gauxholme up to Pasture Side.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is a bus service to Sharneyford from both Bacup and Todmorden.

PARKING: There is plenty of parking space off the main road in the vicinity of the starting point.

This is mainly an upland walk and particular features are the many fine views over the Calder and Walsden valleys and in contrast an attractive route through the beautiful Centre Vale Park and historic Todmorden.

1 This walk starts at the east end of Sharneyford at the boundary between Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

Nearby, on the north side of the road, is a white painted building, formerly the Sharneyford Toll House which was built at the same time as the turnpike road. Note the bay window hard up against the carriageway, enabling the toll keeper to have a good view of approaching traffic in each direction. Opposite the toll house is a boundary stone. Adjacent to the starting point an attractive sign, presented by the Rotary Club of Todmorden in 1959 marks the Todmorden boundary and beyond is the old stone wall upon which the original West Riding of Yorkshire boundary sign was mounted.

Proceed in an easterly direction and where the main road bends sharply round to the right take the metalled lane ahead, known as Flower Scar Road or Sandy Road. In a few yards the lane crosses the Rossendale Way.

Flower Scar Road is a very old highway, being an important link in the highway network before the turnpike roads were built.

17 The path is waymarked by the symbol.

Soon views open out of the valley to the south.

On the right the edge of the clay workings, which supplied the former pipe works, come into view.

A little further on fine views of Upper Calderdale open out to the left.

Some of the coal workings on either side of the road, near where the lane ceases to be metalled, are the remains of old Bell Pit Coal Mines dating back as far as 1500.

The rough track soon drops steeply with fine views of the Calderdale scenery to the east dominated, on a clear day, by Stoodley Pike.

Stoodley Pike, which is located on the Pennine Way, was erected to commemorate the surrender of Paris to the Allies after the Napoleonic wars in 1815. After being struck by lightning it collapsed in 1854 and a new monument, 120 ft. in height, was erected in 1856 at a cost of £812 of which £600 was collected by subscription with John Fielden providing the balance.

Another old highway known as "Tower Causeway" and signposted "Portsmouth" soon joins from the left.

Nearby is the site of the grindstone now in Bacup. To the right across a wall is Higher Woodfield, an old farmhouse which has been extensively renovated, and beyond Lower Woodfield which has been completely rebuilt as a replacement farmhouse.

Sour Hall and the old inn called "The Sourhall" or the "Old Dog & Partridge" are soon reached.

This inn, which was very important before the turnpike roads were built, dates from the 16th century and has been much extended in recent times. Bar snacks and meals are available at certain times and at other times by prior arrangement with the landlord. (Tel: Todmorden 3463). The cottages in the weatherbeaten hamlet of Sour Hall date largely from the 18th century. One was used as a hospital for a time.

Turn left on to a track immediately before the inn passing through a gate at the side of a cattle grid. There is a footpath sign to Scaitcliffe.

Soon there are fine views of Upper Calderdale towards the Cliviger Gorge.

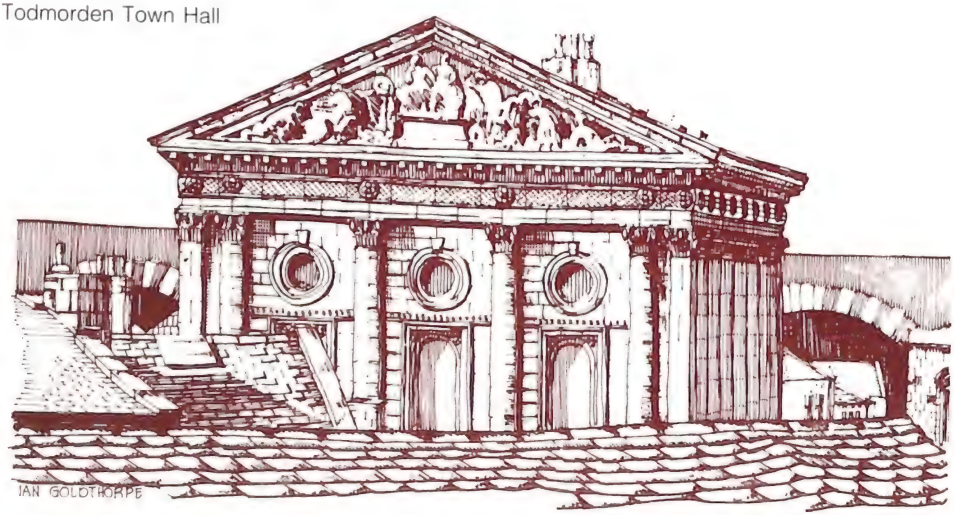
Bear right at an old flooded quarry to Dyke Green. Follow the wall beyond the house to a stile in the corner. The path now enters a walled lane and descends rapidly after crossing a further stile.

To the right is the site of a farm known as "Gibbet" which may have been built on the site of a gibbet, or gallows, used centuries ago within the jurisdiction of the Earls of Lincoln.

The sunken path swings left past the ruins of Royd House and then right along the edge of a meadow to cross a stile into a wood.

From here the view of the industrial valley below, of Lydgate backed by the Cliviger Gorge, is impressive.

Todmorden Town Hall



The path descends and leaves the wood to turn left into North Scaitcliffe to join Burnley Road.

On the right behind a high wall is Scaitcliffe House and on the left the attractive Scaitcliffe cottages.

2 At this point the Calderdale Way is joined.

Those interested in following the Calderdale Way should obtain a copy of "Explore Calderdale the Calderdale Way" published by the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale which is obtainable from the Tourist Information Centre, 1 Bridgegate, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8JP, (Tel: Halifax 843831) and local shops. On the north side of Burnley Road is the 17th century Hare & Hounds Inn in the shadow of the huge Mons Mill, a large brick and terracotta building of some seven storeys.

Turn right along Burnley Road and first right into Ewood Lane turning left into Centre Vale Park beyond some cottages.

The Calderdale Way continues ahead up Ewood Lane. **3**

Burnley Road is a turnpike road constructed in 1754. A copy of the "Todmorden Trail - a self-guided walk around Todmorden" published by Todmorden Conservation Group in association with the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council is obtainable from the nearby cafe and swimming baths for those wishing to fully explore this interesting old town.

Go through the park and bear right into the Garden of Rememberance.

The War Memorial is by Gilbert Bayes and represents Victory Triumphant over Evil in the form of St George on a dragon displayed in a water basin.

Turn left along the path, which runs at the bottom of the slope below the main wooded area past the Fielden Statue.

This memorial by J H Foley, dated 1863, is to John Fielden, Member of Parliament for Oldham and a great Todmorden benefactor and

Todmorden Hall

commemorates the passing of the Ten Hour Act, with which he was much involved, which was a major landmark in 19th century industrial reforms. Centre Vale Park extends for half a mile along the slopes of the Burnley Valley and has the advantage of a beautiful natural setting. Comprising some 88 acres, the park was opened in 1912.

This attractive path passes behind Christ Church into Well Lane.

Christ Church, the Vicarage and the National School form an interesting group. The church was designed by Vulliamy in the Early English Style and completed in 1832 with a new chancel added in 1885. This is one of the churches provided from the One Million Pound Fund set up to build new churches in compensation for the Napoleonic Wars.

Go down the flight of stone steps known as "Ridge Steps", at the right-hand end of some cottages to pass under the railway and through White Hart Fold into the town centre.

"Todmorden" means "Marshy valley of the foxes". The original White Hart Hotel, which once dominated the Fold, was initially a farm and a barn, and was opened in 1728 by John and Tamar Fielden as an inn. The present inn, which still dominates the Fold, was built in the early part of this century.

Turn right on to Rochdale Road. Opposite is the Town Hall.

Rochdale Road is part of the turnpike road system constructed about 1754. This fine Town Hall, astride the River Calder, marks the centre of Todmorden and before the county boundaries were altered for administration purposes in the late 19th century the building was half in Yorkshire and half in Lancashire, hence the figures in the pediment depicting each county's industries. The building, which was completed in 1875 to the designs of John Gibson of London at a cost of £54,000, was paid by Samuel, John and Joshua Fielden who presented the building to the town in 1891.

On the right is the Endowed School and beyond is St Mary's, the oldest church in Todmorden.

This church was originally built as a Chapel-of-Ease of St Chad's in Rochdale on land given by the Radcliffe family in about 1476. The church was probably originally built in the Jacobean Style, and then largely rebuilt about 1770. The tower dates back to the 15th century and in 1896 it acquired a Gothic Revival chancel of a completely unrelated style. Birdcage Walk, the raised pavement alongside the grounds, was constructed over graves in the 1930's.

Here it is worthwhile making a short detour into Rise Lane on the right to see Todmorden Hall.

This building, which is the oldest in the town, was built in the early 17th century by Saville Radcliffe on the site of an older mansion belonging to the family. There is a record of a house on this site in 1293; a building which originally belonged to the de la Deane family. Traces of the building, which took place in the early 14th century, can be seen at the back of the hall and in 1936 a fine mantelpiece was discovered. Todmorden Hall boasts linenfold panelling, an original front door with a bolt for every day of the year, and original timber in the upper rooms. The building is now used as a hotel and restaurant and a meal in this attractive old building is recommended.

Retrace your steps to continue along Rochdale Road. Just over the canal bridge, dated 1864, turn right on to the towpath.

Beyond is Fielden Square, through which walkers bound for the Calderdale Way should pass, then turning half left up Honey Hole Road. On the left is the Golden Lion Inn, one of the three oldest inns in the town, built in the late 18th century. It was the first Post Office in Todmorden; in fact, there was a horse post recorded as early as 1799 which provided three deliveries a week from Halifax. In 1810 came the first requests for a mail coach to pass through Todmorden, and from 1825 to 1829 the Royal Mail Coach called at this inn. Bar

snacks and meals are available. Dominating Fielden Square is the Unitarian Church built at a cost of £53,000 by the Fielden brothers in memory of their father, John Fielden MP. Completed in 1869 to the designs of John Gibson, this church has architectural qualities rarely seen in non-conformist buildings.

The towpath soon bends round to the left. Ahead is the "Great Wall of Todmorden".

This embankment which supports the railway line, opened in 1841, can be seen in its entirety from the towpath. It is a fascinating task to estimate the number of bricks used in the construction of this wall. Four million has been suggested! This railway, the first across the Pennines, was surveyed by George Stevenson. It had to vie for position in the narrow valley with the earlier Rochdale Canal opened in 1802 as both sought the easiest grade. The canal, by John Rennie and William Jessop, incorporates ninety-two locks, and its opening was celebrated by a traverse of the Pennines from Hull to Liverpool by the 50 ton sea-going vessel, "Mayflower".

The towpath soon goes under a superb canal bridge, over which the Calderdale Way passes. After passing through two sets of locks the canal passes under a fine castellated railway structure known locally as "Gauxholme Arches", built to match Dobroyd Castle. A few yards beyond, at the overbridge, leave the towpath to join Bacup Road.

Note the fine canal warehouse, built about 1820, with its splendidly arched hovel or shipping hole. Gauxholme got its name from its one-time owner named "Gawke" or "Gauke". William Darney, a member of Wesley's first band of preachers, preached in 1744 in a barn at Gauxholme.

Turn left and take Naze Road, fifty yards on the left alongside No 31, past a small tripe works turning sharp left through a gate. After a few yards turn right around the hairpin climbing steeply.

In 1824 a young Gauxholmite, John Greenwood, rolled down the Naze in a barrel or "hogshead" landing in the canal, suffering no serious harm and being rescued from drowning by his friends who encouraged him to carry out the prank.

There is evidence of the original paving on this old highway, which zigzags up the hillside to two gateposts on the skyline.

This is an old packhorse track travelled especially by Whitworth handloom weavers to the Piece Hall in Halifax. Before the turnpikes these tracks clung to the drier valley sides and, where obliged to cross the swampy valleys, they descended sharply to the bottom and directly up the opposite side. Over the centuries this route would, in addition, be the scene of long trains of Galloway ponies, or packhorses with well-padded wooden saddles, wending slowly over the shoulder of the hill with burdens of lime from Clitheroe, coal from Cliviger or iron from Bradford. On the approach of market day men and women would travel this route carrying the cloth they had woven to the "piece room" at the house of the master clothier, or alternatively trudge many miles to sell their own pieces of cloth at Halifax, Heptonstall or Rochdale.

By the time the ruins of Naze Farm are reached the worst of the climb is over! Pause here and look back at the fine view.

By the side of the rock face on Bacup Road is a miniature cottage called "Matchbox", said to be the smallest house in Yorkshire. Todmorden, dominated by its fine Town Hall, can be seen with the canal, railway, road and river all carefully fitted into the bottom of the narrow valley. To the left, on the hill, is Dobroyd Castle, a Victorian Tudor castle built between 1865 and 1869 by John Gibson for the son of John Fielden MP. Over to the right Stoodley Pike is visible and in the middle distance the tower of Heptonstall Parish Church.

Pass over a stile, just beyond Naze Farm, and at the end of the walled section pass over another stile on to the open moor alongside a wall to the left.

Note the fine arched "creep hole" in this section of wall to allow sheep to pass from one side to the other. Inchfield Pasture and Inchfield Moor were formerly a manor and in this vicinity was probably located the manor house of the Savile family.

Bear left on to a track past Pasture Side.

Pasture Side appears to date largely from the 18th century still retaining its original stone flagged roofs. The finial on the barn is dated 1856.

Three hundred and fifty yards beyond Pasture Side turn right at the "T" junction of lanes gradually climbing past Brown Road, Thorns Greece and Pot Oven. Pause here and look back at the fine view over Calderdale.

Pot Oven is probably located on a site where earthenware pipes and chimney pots etc. were once manufactured.

Ignore the track off to the left which leads to the derelict property known as "Ditches" with its fine barn, possibly late 18th or early 19th century and still in a reasonable state of repair. Waterman's Cottage, replaced with a new building behind, is soon reached being in line with the dam of Ramsden Clough Reservoir.

Creep hole near Pasture Side

Ramsden Clough Reservoir was completed in 1888 and stands on the site of an ancient bloomery.

Pass through a gate continuing along the track past the site of the Moorcock Inn marked by two fine trees.

The Moorcock Inn flourished when this was an important route and the valley contained farms, a pot oven and three pits.

The track curves left and right, being rather boggy in places, before crossing the open moor.

To the right the ruins of Coolam are a prominent landmark.

Follow the faint path, bearing right up the hillside past a sealed colliery shaft to join the Rossendale Way at the wall by the triangular enclosure on the north flank of Hades Hill.

Turn right and follow the enclosure northwards, and beyond it takes the form of a track walled on both sides.

The Rossendale Way is waymarked by the symbol.

This ancient route known as the Limers' Gate was once an important road used by Galloway ponies, tied together in strings of twenty or thirty. Each pony carried up to two cwts. of coal in panniers, and the lead pony would have bells on its collar to warn travellers of its approach. The drivers of the lime-gals led arduous lives, sometimes sleeping on these moors with their beasts and valuable cargoes. Ailse O'Fussers lived in these parts and worked from Landgate Colliery to the west of our route. This walled section of track, it is supposed, allowed for livestock droving and the width between gives some idea of its former importance.

At the end of the walled section pass through a gate continuing ahead alongside a dilapidated wall and then across an open field to a further gate.

It can be boggy near this gate but there are some stepping stones.

Follow the fine wall to the left which runs along the county boundary.

This ridge is also the Pennine watershed and, if caught by bad weather, the words of John Aikin, written in 1795, might be thought appropriate!

"It is commonly observed that the whole western side of the Kingdom is more subject to rain than the eastern, the evident cause of which is that it first receives the clouds from the Atlantic Ocean, by which this island is principally watered. The situation of Lancashire, in a peculiar manner, exposes it to the operation of this general cause, as the hills which form its line of separation from Yorkshire arrest the clouds in their progress, and cause them to deposit their contents, hence the quantity of rain that falls is augmented in proportion to the nearness of the hills".

Follow alongside the wall on the left for a mile or so. A line of boundary stones on the moor to the right soon mark the official county boundary, and there are fine views over Calderdale to the east.

To the right is the site of an old clay pit which was linked to the Clough Head Brickworks by a tramway which partly ran along the line of the ancient Limers' Gate. Near the beginning of this line of boundary stones is one with a letter "T" and lying horizontal. It is marked on old maps as the "Dobbin Stone".

On the left is a large wet saddle known as Reaps Moss and beyond a rounded hill known as Tooter Hill.

"Tooter" is the old name for "lookout". In 1791, William Byron, Lord of the Manor of Rochdale, started litigation to restrain one Simon Dearden from gaining coal from these hills. Noel, Lord Byron, the poet, inherited the estate and the law suit with it. In 1814 adjacent landowners built these enclosure walls on the common. By the 1820's Byron, deserted by his wife, Anne, and tired of these legal wrangles, left for Europe. Short of money he wrote to Dearden from Genoa in September 1822, asking him to buy the manor and so end the quarrel. This Dearden did, and Byron was able to extend his tour to Greece where, on April 19th 1824, he died from a fever. Thus, these hills were in part responsible for Byron's flight to Europe, his best poetry and, finally, his death.

The Bacup/Todmorden Road comes into view ahead.

There is evidence of coalmining to the right and it is said that there are coal seams between two and four feet thick in this area.

Shortly the route is taken over by a farm track which comes in from the left.

To the right, a little way down on the left of the valley, will be seen the Amateur Astronomy Centre which is located on the site of the former "Middle Shop" pipeworks. This is an ambitious project to produce a nationally important centre for those interested in astronomy, which was put forward in 1982 by a few enthusiasts led by Peter Drew, a Bacup man. It is to include a forty inch reflecting telescope which will make it the largest optical telescope in the country.

Pass through a gate and then join the main Bacup/Todmorden Road near the remains of a brick building turning left.

On the left, in a field, is an old grindstone.

Leave the Rossendale Way, which continues ahead on the lane forking off to the right, just before the second bend.

Follow along the main road and in a few yards the starting point is reached at the county boundary.

5

Rossendale Way

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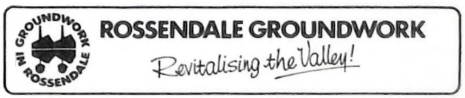
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